

No. 25-2120

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

NATIONAL TPS ALLIANCE, et al.,
Appellees,

v.

KRISTI NOEM, et al.,
Appellants.

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of California
District Court Case No. 3:25-cv-1766

EXCERPTS OF RECORD

VOLUME 8

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

NATIONAL TPS ALLIANCE, MARIELA
GONZÁLEZ, FREDDY JOSE ARAPE
RIVAS, M.H., CECILIA DANIELA
GONZÁLEZ HERRERA, ALBA CECILIA
PURICA HERNÁNDEZ, E.R., HENDRINA
VIVAS CASTILLO, A.C.A., SHERIKA
BLANC, VILES DORSAINVIL, and G.S.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as
Secretary of Homeland Security, UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY, and UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:25-cv-1766-EMC

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Administrative Procedure Act Case

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INTRODUCTION

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2 1. This lawsuit presents a challenge to Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) Secretary Kristi Noem’s decisions to deprive 600,000 Venezuelans and 500,000 Haitians
3 protected by Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) of the right to live and work legally in the
4 United States for the eighteen-month periods lawfully authorized by her predecessor. Secretary
5 Noem’s attempt to “vacate” this statutorily authorized humanitarian protection for more than a
6 million people who rely on it for their safety and livelihood is unprecedented and unlawful.

7
8 2. Secretary Noem took two illegal actions concerning Venezuela’s TPS within one
9 week of assuming her role at the head of DHS. Three days after her confirmation, she “vacated”
10 an extension of TPS protections for Venezuelans residing in the United States, just weeks after the
11 extension was duly published in the Federal Register. Two days later, she terminated TPS for the
12 Venezuelans who initially registered in 2023. These actions have the effect of robbing 600,000
13 Venezuelan TPS holders of the right to live and work in this country for the next eighteen months.
14 Approximately 350,000 Venezuelan TPS holders stand to lose this humanitarian legal status on
15 April 7, 2025, and their work authorization as soon as April 2, 2025. Secretary Noem announced
16 the vacatur decision in an exclusive interview she gave to Fox News, saying that “the people of
17 this country want these dirt bags out.”

18 3. On February 20, 2025—less than a month into her tenure—Secretary Noem
19 announced a third unlawful TPS decision, this time for Haiti, by enacting a “partial vacatur” of the
20 July 1, 2024 extension and redesignation of Haiti for TPS. Under the July 2024 decision, Haitian
21 TPS holders were entitled to protection until February 3, 2026. Secretary Noem cut Haiti’s
22 designation period from eighteen months to twelve months, advancing the end of TPS for eligible
23 Haitian nationals to August 3, 2025.

24 4. Secretary Noem’s action was in keeping with President Donald Trump’s threats and
25 false claims about Haiti. During his campaign, in response to a question about Haitian TPS
26 holders, President Trump asserted he would “revoke” TPS to remove people who were
27 “destroy[ing] our country.” President Trump also repeatedly amplified the false and racist claim
28 that Haitian TPS holders were eating dogs and cats.

1 5. Plaintiffs in this case are the National TPS Alliance (“NTPSA”), a member-led
2 organization representing TPS holders across the country, including individuals from Venezuela
3 and Haiti who have TPS (“Individual Plaintiffs”). These individuals cannot return safely to their
4 country of origin. TPS allows them to live and work lawfully in the United States. They represent
5 the diverse population of Venezuelans and Haitians who have relied on TPS to provide them the
6 most basic forms of human security—a stable place to live and a chance to work for a living
7 during this time of severe crisis in their home countries. They are educators, laborers, health care
8 workers, caretakers, and advocates; parents, students, and children. They live all across the
9 country, with homes, children, families, jobs, and deep community ties. If Secretary Noem’s TPS
10 termination goes into effect, they will be subject to deportation yet unable to return safely to their
11 home countries; and without legal authorization to live or work in the United States.

12 6. The Secretary’s actions are illegal for multiple reasons. At the outset, DHS has no
13 authority to “vacate” a prior TPS extension—in whole or in part. The TPS statute tightly regulates
14 the conditions under which TPS decisions can be made, setting time periods and other procedural
15 rules that must be followed for both extensions and terminations. The agency does not have
16 implicit authority to accomplish the same objectives on whatever timeframe it wants, and without
17 following the requisite procedures.

18 7. Even if DHS did have such authority, the reasons provided by the Secretary to
19 vacate the extension are arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual, and inexplicably
20 deviate from past practice in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”). For instance,
21 contrary to the claims made in the Federal Register, there was nothing unusual about either the
22 timing of the now-vacated extension for Venezuela or the justifications provided for the July 2024
23 extension and redesignation of Haiti. Nor did the prior decisions on Venezuela and Haiti’s TPS
24 designations suffer from any of the other purported defects on which Secretary Noem relied to
25 justify her decisions—defects which, in any event, should have been resolved by alternatives short
26 of vacatur.

27 8. The three unlawful orders—the vacatur orders for Venezuela and Haiti, and the
28 termination decision for Venezuela—suffer from additional defects as well. Among others,

1 DHS’s decisions rest on the assumption that TPS is itself illegal, and that Venezuelans and
2 Haitians with TPS are in the United States illegally. This error is evident on the face of the
3 decisions. It is also evident from statements made by Secretary Noem. Before she assumed
4 leadership of DHS, she—along with President Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and high-level
5 Trump advisors—made plain their position that TPS was “illegal,” that persons protected by TPS
6 are here “illegally,” and that this justified their plan to terminate TPS. She reiterated that statement
7 in announcing the decision to partially vacate the 2024 Haiti redesignation and extension. But the
8 Secretary’s disdain for TPS and TPS holders cannot nullify a statute.

9 9. The Secretary’s decisions also were motivated at least in part by racial animus, in
10 contravention of the Fifth Amendment. That is clear from statements the Secretary made when
11 announcing the Venezuela decisions themselves, labeling Venezuelan TPS holders as
12 “dirtbags”—an expression of racism made by the official decisionmaker as part of her explanation
13 for the decision. Making matters worse, that statement is just one among a torrent of similar racist
14 statements that Secretary Noem, President Trump, and members of the Trump campaign and
15 administration have made to attack and marginalize non-white immigrants generally, and the
16 Venezuelan and Haitian TPS communities in particular.

17 10. For each of these reasons, this Court should set aside the agency’s unlawful vacatur
18 and termination orders, and reinstate the prior extension.

19 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

20 11. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. 1331 because this action arises under the
21 Constitution and laws of the United States. This Court has additional remedial authority under the
22 Declaratory Judgment Act¹ and the Administrative Procedure Act.² Article III and the Fifth
23 Amendment independently grant this Court subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs’ Fifth
24 Amendment claim.

27 ¹ See 28 U.S.C. 2201 *et seq.*

28 ² 5 U.S.C. 701–706.

13. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California under 28 U.S.C. 1391(e)(1) because at least one Plaintiff resides in this judicial district and each Defendant is an agency of the United States or an officer of the United States sued in his or her official capacity.

14. Assignment is proper in the San Francisco division because the claims of Plaintiffs that reside in this judicial district arise in Alameda and San Mateo Counties.⁵

Plaintiffs

15. **Plaintiff National TPS Alliance (NTPSA)** is a member-led organization whose mission is to defend the TPS program and win a path to permanent residency for TPS holders. NTPSA is fiscally sponsored by the Central American Resource Center - CARECEN - of California, a non-profit organization headquartered in Los Angeles, California, which has worked for more than four decades to provide immigrant integration programs, deliver immigration legal services, and foster civic participation and community engagement on immigration policy, education reform, and workers' rights.

16. NTPSA advocates to defend TPS and win a path to permanent status for TPS holders, organizes actions to raise public awareness about TPS and the contributions TPS holders make to this country, facilitates community and civic engagement by TPS holders, and provides access to timely and accurate TPS-related information and services to its members. Membership in the NTPSA is free and voluntary. Individuals can become NTPSA members either by joining a local NTPSA committee or by submitting an individual membership application. NTPSA's

³ See *Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) v. United States*, 870 F.2d 518, 525 (9th Cir. 1989).

⁴ See, e.g., *Larson v. Domestic & Foreign Com. Corp.*, 337 U.S. 682, 697–99 & nn.18–19 (1949); *Shields v. Utah Idaho Cent. R.R. Co.*, 305 U.S. 177, 183–84 (1938).

⁵ Civil Local Rule 3-2(d) and 3-5(b).

1 members set the organization's priorities, lead and participate in NTPSA's local committees and
2 working groups, and select and serve on NTPSA's Executive Committee.

3 17. NTPSA brings this action on behalf of its members. The vast majority of NTPSA's
4 members are TPS holders, including TPS holders from Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar),
5 Cameroon, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela,
6 and Yemen; the rest are family members of TPS holders and other individuals who wish to
7 support the TPS community. The NTPSA has over 130,000 Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holder
8 members living in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. They face irreparable harm from the
9 challenged vacatur and termination.

10 18. **Plaintiff Mariela González** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2021
11 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur, is at risk of losing her TPS and work
12 authorization on September 10, 2025. She is a resident of San Mateo County, California, and has
13 lived in the United States for the past fourteen years. Mariela works as an instructional coach with
14 an urban school district. Her mother, father, brother, sister, and nephews all live in the United
15 States and are U.S. citizens. She is an NTPSA member.

16 19. **Plaintiff Freddy Jose Arape Rivas** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023
17 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing his TPS
18 on April 7, 2025. He applied to renew his TPS and work authorization on January 17, 2025,
19 pursuant to the now-vacated extension of TPS for Venezuelans. USCIS already automatically
20 extended his employment authorization for up to 540 days in response to his application. But the
21 new Federal Register notice vacating the January 17 extension provides that "USCIS will
22 invalidate EADs" and TPS-related documentation issued pursuant to the January extension. Thus,
23 Freddy's work authorization is at risk of expiring on April 2, 2025. Freddy lives in Collin County,
24 Texas, and works for a technology company. He has family in Texas, including a cousin who,
25 along with his wife and seven-year-old daughter, also have TPS. He is an NTPSA member.

26 20. **Plaintiff M.H.** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023 designation and, as a
27 result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing her TPS status on April 7,
28 2025. Her work authorization expires on April 2, 2025. She lives in a Tennessee suburb with her

1 husband and two children. Her seven-year-old daughter also has TPS. Her husband, an engineer, is
2 a U.S. citizen employed by a government subcontractor, and together they have a two-year-old
3 U.S. citizen son. M.H. is a full-time caregiver for her two young children. Her driver's license
4 expires when her TPS does, and she depends on it for her daily needs. She is an NTPSA member.

5 21. **Plaintiff Cecilia Daniela González Herrera** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under
6 the 2021 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur, is at risk of losing her TPS on
7 September 10, 2025. She lives with her parents and younger brother in Kissimmee, Florida, and is
8 a derivative applicant on her parents' long-pending asylum application. She is a student at the
9 University of Central Florida and expects to graduate with a bachelor's degree in May. She is also
10 employed as the Voting Rights Advocacy Coordinator for Latino Justice PRLDEF. She is an
11 NTPSA member.

12 22. **Plaintiff Alba Cecilia Purica Hernández** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the
13 2023 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing her
14 work authorization on April 2, 2025 and TPS on April 7, 2025. She had been a university student
15 in Venezuela. She lives in San Leandro, California and works as a childcare provider. She is an
16 NTPSA member.

17 23. **Plaintiff E.R.** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023 designation and is at
18 risk of losing her TPS on April 7, 2025 and her work authorization on April 2, 2025. She is a
19 single parent to a twelve-year-old daughter, who is also a TPS holder. She lives in New York,
20 where she works in a factory. She relies on TPS for her work authorization and legal status. She is
21 an NTPSA member.

22 24. **Plaintiff Hendrina Vivas Castillo** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023
23 designation, and, as a result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing her TPS
24 on April 7, 2025. Her work permit expires on April 2, 2025. She lives in Culver City, California
25 and works as a delivery driver. She is an NTPSA member.

26 25. **Plaintiff A.C.A.** is a Haitian TPS holder living in Miami, Florida who has TPS
27 pursuant to the 2021 designation of Haiti. A.C.A. has lived in the United States since he was
28 fifteen years old; he is now thirty. His mother and brothers are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent

1 residents. A.C.A. works in healthcare administration and attends college, where he studies
2 accounting on a full scholarship. Without TPS, A.C.A. would be left without work authorization,
3 protection against deportation, or the ability to attend college, where he relies on TPS for in-state
4 tuition. A.C.A. is an NTPSA member.

5 26. **Plaintiff Sherika Blanc** is a Haitian TPS holder living in Kentucky who has TPS
6 under the 2010 designation of Haiti for TPS. She is the mother of four U.S. citizen children and is
7 married to a U.S. citizen spouse. Sherika is 34 years old and has lived in the United States since
8 she was eight. She is a certified nursing assistant and works as a medical coordinator. She also
9 owns her own nail salon. She relies on TPS for legal status and work authorization. Sherika was a
10 plaintiff in *Ramos v. Nielsen*, Case No. 3:18-cv-1554 (EMC), and is an NTPSA member.

11 27. **Plaintiff Viles Dorsainvil** is a Haitian TPS holder living in Springfield, Ohio, who
12 has TPS under the 2021 designation of Haiti for TPS. He is a former pastor and the director of the
13 Haitian Community Help & Support Center, a nonprofit founded to assist the Haitian immigrant
14 community in Springfield. Viles has emerged as a national leader for the Haitian community,
15 speaking out against the targeted and repeated attacks by President Trump and Vice President
16 Vance against Haitian TPS holders in Springfield during the 2024 presidential campaign. Viles
17 relies on TPS for work authorization and protection against deportation. He is an NTPSA member.

18 28. **Plaintiff G.S.** is a Haitian who has TPS under the 2024 designation of Haiti for TPS.
19 He is a 30-year-old medical doctor trained in Haiti who hopes to someday become licensed to
20 practice medicine in the United States. Currently, he works as a case manager for the State of
21 Massachusetts, assisting low-income residents in securing housing. G.S., fluent in English, Creole,
22 and French and proficient in Spanish, works with many immigrants and utilizes his language skills
23 to assist his clients. He relies on TPS for his legal status. He is an NTPSA member.

24 **Defendants**

25 29. **Defendant Kristi Noem**, sued in her official capacity, is the Secretary of Homeland
26 Security. As the highest-ranking officer for DHS, Defendant Noem has ultimate statutory

1 authority over all TPS extension, termination, and designation decisions.⁶

2 30. **Defendant U.S. Department of Homeland Security** is a cabinet-level department
3 of the Executive Branch of the federal government and is an “agency” within the meaning of 5
4 U.S.C. 551(1). DHS includes various component agencies, including the U.S. Citizenship and
5 Immigration Services (“USCIS”). DHS, together with all of its component agencies, is responsible
6 for administering and enforcing the TPS program.

7 31. **Defendant United States of America** includes all other government agencies and
8 departments responsible for the implementation, administration, and change in policy concerning
9 the TPS program.

10 STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

11 32. Congress established the Temporary Protected Status program in the Immigration
12 Act of 1990.⁷ TPS is a form of humanitarian relief, providing lawful immigration status to eligible
13 foreign nationals who cannot safely return home to war-torn or disaster-stricken countries. By
14 enacting the TPS statute, which is codified at 8 U.S.C. 1254a, Congress established formal criteria
15 for relief and set forth predictable procedures.⁸

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21 ⁶ See 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b); 6 U.S.C. 557 (transferring functions from the Attorney General).

22 ⁷ Pub. L. No. 101-649, § 302, 104 Stat. 4978, 5030–36.

23 ⁸ Before Congress created TPS, the Executive Branch previously used *ad hoc* enforcement
24 mechanisms to allow individuals to remain in the United States for humanitarian reasons. See
25 Adam B. Cox & Cristina M. Rodríguez, *The President and Immigration Law*, 119 Yale L.J. 458,
26 501–03 (2009) (discussing use of the “parole power,” which is currently codified at 8 U.S.C.
27 1182(d)(5)); Lynda J. Oswald, *Extended Voluntary Departure: Limiting the Attorney General’s*
28 *Discretion in Immigration Matters*, 85 Mich. L. Rev. 152 (1986) (discussing use of “Extended
Voluntary Departure”). Presidents have continued to employ such programs even after the
creation of TPS. For example, President Trump exercised his discretion to designate Venezuela
for “Deferred Enforced Departure” in 2020. Somewhat like TPS, deferred enforced departure
allows foreign nationals to remain and work in the United States lawfully while conditions in their
homeland are unsafe or return is impracticable.

33. Under the TPS statute, the Secretary of Homeland Security⁹ makes a “designation” decision for a given country.¹⁰ After consulting with “appropriate” government agencies, the Secretary may designate a foreign state, or any part of that state, for TPS based on: (A) an “ongoing armed conflict within the state” that would “pose a serious threat” to the “personal safety” of the foreign nationals of that state; (B) an “earthquake, flood, drought, epidemic, or other environmental disaster in the state resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of living conditions,” which makes the foreign state “unable, temporarily, to handle adequately the return to the state” of its nationals, and where the foreign state has “officially” requested a designation; or (C) the existence of “extraordinary and temporary conditions in the foreign state” that prevent foreign nationals from safely returning, and where the temporary presence of those foreign nationals in the United States is not “contrary to the national interest of the United States.”¹¹

34. An initial designation period for a given country lasts for six, twelve, or eighteen months, at the Secretary’s discretion.¹² Before the designation can become effective, the Secretary must publish a notice in the Federal Register that includes, among other things, a statement of findings, the effective date of the designation, and a tally of eligible foreign nationals.¹³ Once the designation is ordered, it “shall remain in effect” for a period “of not less than 6 months,” and remains operative until terminated under procedures specified in the statute.¹⁴

⁹ References to the Attorney General in provisions describing functions transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of Homeland Security “shall be deemed to refer to the Secretary” of Homeland Security. *See* 6 U.S.C. 557.

¹⁰ The agency has long recognized authority to designate a country more than once, which is called “redesignation.” *See* Extension of Designation and Redesignation of Liberia Under Temporary Protected Status Program, 62 Fed. Reg. 16608, 16609 (Apr. 7, 1997) (concluding that the TPS statute “explicitly contemplates more than one designation” for one country because 8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(1)(A)(i) refers to “the most recent designation of the state”). A TPS designation for a country that is already designated for TPS is called a “redesignation.” When DHS redesignates a country for TPS, it generally has the effect of expanding the pool of potential beneficiaries to include individuals who came to the United States after the country was first designated for TPS.

¹¹ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1).

¹² 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(2), (b)(3)(C).

¹³ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1)(C).

¹⁴ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(2).

1 35. Once the Secretary has designated a particular country for TPS, individuals from
2 that country (or persons without nationality who last habitually resided in that country) may apply
3 for immigration status under the program. To be eligible for TPS, however, individuals from a
4 designated country must meet stringent requirements. These requirements include, among other
5 things, continuous physical presence in the United States from the most recent date of designation;
6 continuous residence in the United States from a (potentially earlier) date designated by the
7 Secretary; satisfaction of the criteria for admissibility as an immigrant; lack of disqualifying
8 criminal history (where more than one misdemeanor or a single felony is disqualifying); and
9 submission of an application, extensive documentation, and fees.¹⁵

10 36. Congress ensured that individuals who are ultimately granted protected status could
11 enjoy the freedom to live and work in the United States without fear of deportation. Under the
12 statute's clear directives, an individual who receives and maintains TPS "shall [be] authorize[d]"
13 to engage in employment in the United States; "shall not be detained" by the Secretary of
14 Homeland Security on the basis of immigration status; and "shall not [be] remove[d]" from the
15 United States by the Department of Homeland Security.¹⁶

16 37. The TPS statute requires the Secretary to periodically re-evaluate country
17 designations. At least 60 days before a particular designation expires, the Secretary must "review
18 the conditions in the foreign state . . . for which a designation is in effect" and determine whether
19 the country still meets the conditions for TPS.¹⁷ The review requires "consultation with
20 appropriate agencies of the Government" and, ultimately, publication of notice in the Federal
21 Register.¹⁸

22 38. The review and consultation process typically begins months before the 60-day
23 deadline. First,

24 RAIO [the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate]

25 _____
26 ¹⁵ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(1); 8 C.F.R. 244.2, 244.4, 244.9.

27 ¹⁶ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(a)(1), (d)(4).

28 ¹⁷ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A).

¹⁸ *Id.*

1 (a division within USCIS) provides a Country Conditions Memo. In
2 addition, OP&S [Office of Policy and Strategy] (another division within
3 USCIS) drafts a Decision Memo that contains USCIS's
4 recommendation on what to do about the TPS designation. Once the
5 Decision Memo is finalized, the USCIS Director passes it on to the DHS
6 Secretary. The State Department provides further input (e.g., country
7 conditions, recommendations). At times, input can also come from other
8 government sources, but the above is the information consistently
9 provided to the DHS Secretary.¹⁹

10 39. The Secretary must terminate TPS only if the designated country "no longer
11 continues to meet the conditions for designation."²⁰ The statute does not permit consideration of
12 other grounds for termination. The effective date of any TPS termination must be at least 60 days
13 after publication of an official notice of termination, and may not precede the expiry of "the most
14 recent previous extension."²¹ In other words, the statute does not permit the Secretary to cut short
15 a TPS period. The Secretary may, however, extend the period "to provide for an orderly
16 transition."²²

17 40. If the Secretary does not terminate TPS for a particular country, either because she
18 affirmatively finds that the country continues to meet the conditions for designation or because she
19 simply fails to make a decision, then the designation "is extended" for a period of six months, or
20 by discretion of the Secretary, for a period of twelve or eighteen months.²³

21 41. When a designation for a particular country is terminated, an individual TPS
22 holder's status will typically revert back to their original immigration status so long as that status
23 remains valid.

24
25 ¹⁹ *Ramos v. Nielsen*, 336 F. Supp. 3d 1075, 1082 (N.D. Cal. 2018).

26 ²⁰ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(B).

27 ²¹ *Id.*

28 ²² 8 U.S.C. 1254a(d)(3).

²³ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(C).

**IN UNPRECEDENTED ACTIONS, DHS VACATED LAWFUL TPS EXTENSIONS FOR
VENEZUELA AND HAITI; AND TERMINATED TPS FOR VENEZUELAN TPS
HOLDERS TO WHOM THE GOVERNMENT HAD GRANTED RENEWED
PROTECTION ONLY WEEKS EARLIER**

Venezuela TPS Designations

Venezuela 2021 and 2023 TPS Designations

42. Venezuelans living in the United States first received temporary protection from removal on January 19, 2021, when President Trump—on the last day of his first Administration—directed the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to “take appropriate measures to defer for 18 months the removal of any national of Venezuela . . . who is present in the United States as of January 20, 2021,” with limited exceptions, and “to take appropriate measures to authorize employment for aliens whose removal has been deferred, as provided by this memorandum, for the duration of such deferral.”²⁴

43. In designating Venezuela for Deferred Enforced Departure, President Trump declared:

[T]he Maduro regime is responsible for the worst humanitarian crisis in the Western Hemisphere in recent memory. A catastrophic economic crisis and shortages of basic goods and medicine have forced about five million Venezuelans to flee the country, often under dangerous conditions. . . . The deteriorative condition within Venezuela, which presents an ongoing national security threat to the safety and well-being of the American people, warrants the deferral of the removal of Venezuelan nationals who are present in the United States.²⁵

44. On March 9, 2021 (under the Biden Administration), DHS designated Venezuela for TPS based on the Secretary’s determination that “extraordinary and temporary conditions in the foreign state prevent [Venezuelans] from returning safely” and “permitting [Venezuelans] to remain temporarily in the United States” is not “contrary to the national interest of the United

²⁴ Deferred Enforced Departure for Certain Venezuelans, 86 Fed. Reg. 6845, 6845 (Jan. 19, 2021).

²⁵ *Id.*

1 States.”²⁶ The Secretary found that “Venezuela is currently facing a severe humanitarian
2 emergency” and:

3 [H]as been in the midst of a severe political and economic crisis for
4 several years . . . marked by a wide range of factors including: Economic
5 contraction; inflation and hyperinflation; deepening poverty; high levels
6 of unemployment; reduced access to and shortages of food and
7 medicine; a severely weakened medical system; the reappearance or
8 increased incidence of certain communicable diseases; a collapse in
9 basic services; water, electricity, and fuel shortages; political
polarization; institutional and political tensions; human rights abuses
and repression; crime and violence; corruption; increased human
mobility and displacement (including internal migration, emigration,
and return); and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, among other
factors.²⁷

10 45. Also on March 9, 2021, via the same Federal Register notice, DHS provided
11 employment authorization for Venezuelans covered by Deferred Enforced Departure.²⁸

12 46. The 2021 Venezuela Designation allowed eligible Venezuelans who had
13 continuously resided in the United States since March 8, 2021 and been physically present in the
14 United States since March 9, 2021 to apply for TPS.²⁹

15 47. On July 11, 2022, DHS issued a press release announcing then-Secretary Alejandro
16 Mayorkas’s decision to extend Venezuela’s TPS designation. The press release instructed:

17 Venezuelans who are currently eligible for TPS under the existing
18 designation but may have not yet applied with U.S. Citizenship and
19 Immigration Services (USCIS) should file their applications prior to the
20 September 9, 2022, application deadline, including those Venezuelans
who are covered under the January 2021 grant of Deferred Enforced
Departure (DED). Venezuela’s DED is set to expire July 20, 2022.³⁰

23 ²⁶ Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status and Implementation of Employment
24 Authorization for Venezuelans Covered by Deferred Enforced Departure, 86 Fed. Reg. 13574,
13575 (Mar. 9, 2021) (“2021 Venezuela Designation”).

25 ²⁷ *Id.* at 13576 (internal citation and quotation marks omitted).

26 ²⁸ *Id.* at 13579.

26 ²⁹ *Id.* at 13575.

27 ³⁰ See Press Release, *DHS Announces Extension of Temporary Protected Status for Venezuela*,
28 DHS (July 11, 2022), <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2022/07/11/dhs-announces-extension-temporary-protected-status-venezuela>.

1 48. Venezuela’s Deferred Enforced Departure expired on July 20, 2022. Every person
2 who had been eligible for it was by then eligible for TPS, provided they could satisfy the more
3 stringent background check criteria required for TPS.

4 49. On September 8, 2022, DHS extended Venezuela’s TPS designation for eighteen
5 months, through March 10, 2024.³¹ The Secretary found that extension was warranted due to
6 ongoing “[e]xtraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent Venezuelan nationals from
7 returning in safety includ[ing] severe economic and political crises ongoing within Venezuela,
8 which have an impact across sectors, including limited access to food, basic services, and
9 adequate healthcare, and the deterioration of the rule of law and protection of human rights.”³²
10 The Secretary also determined that “it is not contrary to the national interest of the United States
11 to permit Venezuelan TPS beneficiaries to remain in the United States temporarily.”³³ However,
12 because the decision was only an extension, and not also a redesignation, it did not provide
13 protection to Venezuelans who had arrived in the United States after March 9, 2021.

14 50. On October 3, 2023, DHS again extended the 2021 designation of Venezuela for
15 eighteen months, and also redesignated Venezuela for TPS for eighteen months.³⁴ The extension
16 of the 2021 designation ran from March 11, 2024 to September 10, 2025. The new 2023
17 redesignation ran from October 3, 2023 through April 2, 2025. The Secretary found that:

18 [E]xtraordinary and temporary conditions continue to prevent
19 Venezuelan nationals from returning in safety due to a severe
20 humanitarian emergency which has resulted in food insecurity and the
21 inability to access adequate medicine, healthcare, water, electricity, and
22 fuel. Additionally, human rights violations and abuses, high levels of
poverty, high levels of crime and violence, and heavy rains and flooding
prevent Venezuelan nationals from returning in safety and permitting
Venezuelan noncitizens to remain in the United States temporarily
would not be contrary to the interests of the United States.³⁵

24 ³¹ Extension of the Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 87 Fed. Reg. 55024,
25 55024 (Sept. 8, 2022).

26 ³² *Id.* at 55026.

27 ³³ *Id.* at 55027.

28 ³⁴ Extension and Redesignation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 88 Fed. Reg.
68130, 68130 (Oct. 3, 2023) (“2023 Venezuela Designation”).

³⁵ *Id.* at 68134.

1
2 51. In order to qualify under the 2023 Venezuela Designation, TPS applicants had to
3 prove that they had continuously resided in the United States since July 31, 2023 and had been
4 continuously physically present since October 3, 2023.³⁶

5 52. All individuals who were eligible for TPS under the 2021 Designation were also
6 eligible for TPS under the 2023 Designation, provided they registered in accordance with DHS
7 instructions.

8 53. DHS estimated that 243,000 Venezuelan TPS beneficiaries who first registered for
9 TPS under the 2021 Venezuela Designation were eligible to re-register for TPS under its
10 extension.³⁷

11 54. In addition, DHS estimated “approximately 472,000 additional individuals may be
12 eligible for TPS under the redesignation of Venezuela. This population includes Venezuelan
13 nationals in the United States in nonimmigrant status or without immigration status.”³⁸ Such
14 individuals were not eligible under the first designation because they arrived after March 9, 2021.

15 **January 2025 TPS Extension for Venezuela**

16 55. On January 17, 2025, Secretary Mayorkas extended the 2023 Venezuela Designation
17 by eighteen months, through October 2, 2026.³⁹ The Secretary found that extraordinary and
18 temporary conditions in Venezuela continued to prevent nationals from returning in safety. He
19 explained:

20 Venezuela is experiencing a complex, serious and multidimensional
21 humanitarian crisis. The crisis has reportedly disrupted every aspect of
22 life in Venezuela. Basic services like electricity, internet access, and
23 water are patchy; malnutrition is on the rise; the healthcare system has
24 collapsed; and children receive poor or no education. Inflation rates are
also among the highest in the world. Venezuela's complex crisis has
pushed Venezuelans into poverty, hunger, poor health, crime,
desperation and migration. Moreover, Nicolas Maduro's declaration of
victory in the July 28, 2024 presidential election—which has been

25 ³⁶ *Id.*

26 ³⁷ *Id.*

27 ³⁸ *Id.*

28 ³⁹ Extension of the 2023 Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 90 Fed. Reg.
5961, 5961 (Jan. 17, 2025) (“January 2025 Extension”).

1 contested as fraudulent by the opposition—has been followed by yet
2 another sweeping crackdown on dissent.⁴⁰

3 56. The Secretary also determined that “it is not contrary to the national interest of the
4 United States to permit Venezuelan TPS beneficiaries to remain in the United States
5 temporarily.”⁴¹

6 57. The extension was effective immediately. The registration period opened that day
7 and extended through September 10, 2025.⁴²

8 58. The January 2025 Extension also explained that there would no longer be two
9 separate filing processes for TPS designations for Venezuela. Rather:

10 To decrease confusion among stakeholders, ensure optimal operational
11 processes, and maintain the same eligibility requirements, upon
12 publication of this Notice, individuals registered under either the March
13 9, 2021 TPS designation or the October 3, 2023 TPS designation will
14 be allowed to re-register under this extension. This would not, however,
15 require that a beneficiary registered under the March 9, 2021
16 designation [] re-register at this time. Rather, it would provide such
17 individuals with the option of doing so. Venezuela TPS beneficiaries
18 who appropriately apply for TPS or re-register under this Notice and are
19 approved by USCIS will obtain TPS through the same extension date of
20 October 2, 2026.⁴³

21 59. The January 2025 Extension also automatically extended relevant employment
22 authorization documents. The notice instructed TPS holders that “if you already have an EAD
23 with a ‘Card Expires’ date of September 10, 2025, April 2, 2025, March 10, 2024, or September 9,
24 2022, this Federal Register notice automatically extends it through April 2, 2026 without any
25 further action on your part.”⁴⁴ It further instructed employers that they “should accept” an expired
26 EAD accompanied by a copy of the January 17, 2025 Federal Register notice as proof of work
27 authorization through April 2, 2026.⁴⁵

28 ⁴⁰ *Id.* at 5963 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² *Id.* at 5968.

⁴³ *Id.* at 5963.

⁴⁴ *Id.* at 5967.

⁴⁵ *Id.* at 5969–70.

60. DHS estimated that, as of January 17, 2025, there were 607,000 beneficiaries under the 2021 and 2023 Venezuela Designations combined.⁴⁶

Vacatur of TPS Extension Three Days After Secretary Noem's Confirmation

61. On January 20, 2025, President Trump was sworn in as President of the United States.

62. That same day, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled “Protecting the American People Against Invasion.”⁴⁷ The “invasion” referenced in the order was the purported “unprecedented flood of illegal immigration into the United States.”⁴⁸ The Order mandated that TPS designations be “appropriately limited in scope” in order to ameliorate the “continued presence of illegal aliens in the United States”:

The Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promptly take all appropriate action, consistent with law, to rescind the policy decisions of the previous administration that led to the increased or continued presence of illegal aliens in the United States, and align any and all departmental activities with the policies set out by this order and the immigration laws. Such action should include, but is not limited to . . . ensuring that designations of Temporary Protected Status are consistent with the provisions of section 244 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1254a), and that such designations are appropriately limited in scope and made for only so long as may be necessary to fulfill the textual requirements of that statute[.]⁴⁹

63. On January 25, 2025, Secretary Noem was sworn in as DHS Secretary.

64. On January 28, 2025, Secretary Noem vacated the January 2025 Extension for Venezuela, rendering more than 600,000 Venezuelans vulnerable to the loss of legal status and associated benefits in April or September 2025.⁵⁰ By the vacatur, Secretary Noem “revert[ed] to the TPS redesignation and extension guidance” which had been announced in October 2023.⁵¹

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 5966.

⁴⁷ Exec. Order No. 14159 (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>.

⁴⁸ *Id.* § 1.

⁴⁹ *Id.* § 16(b).

⁵⁰ USCIS, *Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Venezuela*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-venezuela>.

⁵¹ *Id.*

1 65. Secretary Noem’s decision was the first vacatur of a TPS extension in the 35-year
2 history of the TPS statute.

3 66. On February 3, 2025, DHS formally published a notice in the Federal Register
4 vacating the January 2025 Extension.⁵²

5 67. The vacatur asserted that the Secretary has “inherent authority under the INA to
6 reconsider any TPS-related determination, and upon reconsideration, to vacate or amend the
7 determination.”⁵³

8 68. In the vacatur, Secretary Noem did not find any error in Secretary Mayorkas’s
9 conclusion that Venezuela continued to meet the conditions for TPS designation. Instead, her sole
10 reason for vacating the extension was her objection to the registration requirement procedures
11 established by Secretary Mayorkas, specifically his decision to permit individuals who initially
12 applied for TPS under the 2021 Venezuela Designation to re-register under the 2023 Designation.
13 Secretary Noem did not consider alternatives short of vacatur to resolve this purported problem.

14 69. Secretary Noem also implied that Secretary Mayorkas’ January 2025 extension
15 notice was inconsistent with the statute, which requires that a designation “remain in effect until
16 the effective date of the termination of the designation.”⁵⁴ But it is Secretary Noem’s vacatur, and
17 not the January 2025 Extension, which results in the designation being terminated prematurely.

18 70. The vacatur states that it vacates: “(1) [the] extension of the Venezuela 2023 TPS
19 designation, (2) the consolidation of filing processes for both designations, which, in effect,
20 resulted in the extension of the 2021 TPS designation, and (3) the EADs that were extended.”⁵⁵

21 71. The vacatur further rescinds the automatic extension of employment authorization
22 granted by the January 2025 extension, invalidates employment authorization and approval notices
23 already granted, and cancels the ongoing processing of applications already filed. The notice
24 states:

25 ⁵² Vacatur of 2025 Temporary Protected Status Decision for Venezuela, 90 Fed. Reg. 8805-01
26 (Feb. 3, 2025).

27 ⁵³ *Id.* at 8806.

28 ⁵⁴ *Id.* at 8807 (citing 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(2)(B)).

⁵⁵ *Id.*

Pursuant to this vacatur, USCIS will no longer accept Venezuela TPS re-registration applications (Form I-821) and associated Applications for Employment Authorization (Form I-765) filed under the [January 2025 Extension]. For TPS beneficiaries who have already filed applications to re-register for TPS pursuant to the [January 2025 Extension] and paid any fees associated with their applications, USCIS will cease processing their applications, and issue refunds of any fees paid by those aliens. Additionally, USCIS will invalidate EADs; Forms I-797, Notice of Action (Approval Notice); and Forms I-94, Arrival/Departure Record (collectively known as TPS-related documentation) that have been issued with October 2, 2026 expiration dates under the [January 2025 Extension]. USCIS will provide refunds to any fees paid by these aliens as well.

Additionally, pursuant to this vacatur the automatic EAD extensions provided in the [January 2025 Extension] are hereby rescinded. USCIS will provide additional guidance regarding the two Venezuela TPS designations on a future date in accordance with applicable laws.⁵⁶

Fast-Track Termination of TPS for 350,000 Venezuelans

72. On February 1, 2025, Secretary Noem “decided to terminate” the 2023 Venezuela Designation, ordering an end to the legal status of approximately 350,000 Venezuelans, effective in April.⁵⁷

73. The reasoning in Secretary Noem’s decision would also justify the termination of TPS for the approximately 250,000 people protected by the 2021 Venezuela Designation. Under the statute that decision must be made no later than July 2025.⁵⁸

74. On February 5, 2025, DHS published a notice in the Federal Register terminating the 2023 Venezuela Designation.⁵⁹

75. The termination notice does *not* contend that the crisis conditions supporting the 2023 Venezuela Designation have ended, assuming instead that “the relevant conditions in

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ USCIS, *Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Venezuela*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-venezuela>.

⁵⁸ The statute requires a decision at least 60 days prior to the expiry of any particular TPS designation. 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3).

⁵⁹ Termination of the October 3, 2023 Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 90 Fed. Reg. 9040-01 (Feb. 5, 2025).

Venezuela remain both ‘extraordinary’ and ‘temporary.’”⁶⁰ Secretary Noem nonetheless “determined that Venezuela no longer continues to meet the conditions for the 2023 designation” because “it is contrary to the national interest to permit the covered Venezuelan nationals to remain temporarily in the United States.”⁶¹

76. But the statute does not allow the Secretary to terminate a TPS designation based on national interest. While the statute directs the Secretary to consider “the national interest of the United States” when *designating* a country for TPS based on extraordinary and temporary conditions,⁶² subsequent review of the designation for purposes of either extension or termination is to be based solely on “the conditions in the foreign state,” not conditions in this country.⁶³ There is no precedent in the 35-year history of the TPS program for any designation being terminated on national interest grounds.

77. In her review of whether TPS for Venezuela is in the national interest, Secretary Noem cited President Trump’s directives—his Executive Order, “Protecting the American People Against Invasion,” his “recent, immigration and border-related executive orders and proclamations [which] clearly articulated an array of policy imperatives bearing upon the national interest,” his declaration of a “national emergency at the southern border,” and his directive to put “America and American citizens first.”⁶⁴

78. Most TPS holders lack *any* criminal history. Indeed, individuals are ineligible for TPS if they have more than a single misdemeanor conviction. Yet the termination notice justifies terminating the status of nearly 350,000 Venezuelan TPS holders because alleged members of a Venezuelan gang have been “blamed for sex trafficking, drug smuggling, police shootings, kidnappings, and the exploitation of migrants,” and because President Trump recently placed that

⁶⁰ *Id.* at 9042.

⁶¹ *Id.* at 9041.

⁶² 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1)(C).

⁶³ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A); *see also* 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(B) (requiring termination if the Secretary determines “that *a foreign state* . . . no longer continues to meet the conditions for designation under paragraph (1)”) (emphasis added).

⁶⁴ 90 Fed. Reg. at 9042–43.

1 gang on a “list of transnational criminal organizations.”⁶⁵ In elaborating her finding that extension
2 is not in the national interest, the notice provides:

3 TPS has allowed a significant population of inadmissible or illegal
4 aliens without a path to lawful immigration status to settle in the
5 interior of the United States[.] . . . Among these Venezuelan nationals
6 who have crossed into the United States are members of the
7 Venezuelan gang known as Tren de Aragua.⁶⁶

8 79. Despite that the termination notice issued only two days after the vacatur notice (and
9 less than two weeks after Noem took office), the notice proclaims that the decision to terminate
10 the 2023 Venezuela Designation followed “consultation with the appropriate U.S. Government
11 agencies,” a review of “country conditions,” and a “consider[ation of] whether permitting
12 Venezuelan nationals covered by the 2023 designation is contrary to the national interest.”⁶⁷

13 80. The termination takes effect April 7, 2025 or 60 days after the publication of the
14 termination notice. This is the earliest possible date of termination allowed by law.⁶⁸ While the
15 termination notice recognizes the discretionary authority of the DHS Secretary to provide for an
16 “‘orderly transition’ period if she determines it to be appropriate,” it rejects one as improper
17 here.⁶⁹ The termination notice justifies this in light of the Secretary’s determination that the
18 termination is compelled in the “national interest,” and her finding that there are limited “putative
19 reliance interests.”⁷⁰

20 81. The termination notice does *not* extend the employment authorization documents for
21 2023 Venezuela registrants beyond the date permitted by the original 2023 Designation. Thus,
22 TPS holders protected by the 2023 Venezuela Designation have TPS-related work authorization
23 only until April 2, 2025—five days prior to the expiry of their legal status—even though the

24 ⁶⁵ *Id.* at 9042.

25 ⁶⁶ *Id.*

26 ⁶⁷ *Id.* at 9040–41.

27 ⁶⁸ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(B) (termination may be effective no earlier than 60 days after publication
28 in the Federal Register or, “if later, the expiration of the most recent previous extension”).

29 ⁶⁹ *See* 8 U.S.C. 1254a(d)(3) (Secretary may establish an orderly transition period); 90 Fed. Reg. at
30 9042.

31 ⁷⁰ 90 Fed. Reg. at 9042–44.

1 statute requires that individuals protected by TPS have “effective” work authorization “throughout
2 the period [they are] in temporary protected status.”⁷¹

3 **Haiti TPS Designations**

4 **Haiti’s 2010 and 2011 Designations**

5 82. Haiti was first designated for TPS on January 21, 2010 when the DHS Secretary
6 found that “extraordinary and temporary conditions” in Haiti warranted TPS designation for
7 eighteen months following a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that affected three million people, about
8 one-third of Haiti’s population.⁷² Haiti was redesignated for eighteen months the following year,
9 on May 19, 2011, allowing more recently arrived Haitians to register for TPS.⁷³

10 83. TPS for Haiti was extended four times between 2010 and the beginning of the first
11 Trump administration—in May 2011 (along with the redesignation), October 2012, March 2014,
12 and August 2015. Each time, DHS determined, after consultation with the State Department, that
13 it remained unsafe for Haitian TPS holders to return, and extended TPS for Haiti for eighteen
14 months.⁷⁴

15 84. Under the first Trump Administration, Secretary John Kelly initially extended
16 Haiti’s TPS designation in May 2017, but did so for the minimum six months allowed by statute.
17 That decision foreshadowed imminent termination, advising Haitian TPS holders to “prepare for
18 their return to Haiti.”⁷⁵ Six months later, on January 18, 2018, Acting Secretary Elaine Duke
19 terminated TPS for Haiti on the ground that country conditions in Haiti “no longer support its
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22 ⁷¹ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(a)(2).

23 ⁷² Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 75 Fed. Reg. 3476-02, 3477 (Jan. 21, 2010).

24 ⁷³ Extension and Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 76 Fed. Reg. 29000 (May 19, 2011).

25 ⁷⁴ *Id.* at 29001; Extension of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 77 Fed.
26 Reg. 59943, 59944 (Oct. 1, 2012); Extension of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected
27 Status, 79 Fed. Reg. 11808, 11809 (Mar. 3, 2014); Extension of the Designation of Haiti for
Temporary Protected Status, 80 Fed. Reg. 51582, 51583 (Aug. 25, 2015).

28 ⁷⁵ Extension of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 82 Fed. Reg. 23830 (May 24, 2017).

1 designation for TPS.”⁷⁶ Acting Secretary Duke provided for an eighteen-month period for the
2 termination to enter into effect to “provide time for an orderly transition,” as permitted by
3 statute.⁷⁷

4 85. This 2018 termination of TPS for Haiti never entered into effect due to legal
5 challenges. On October 3, 2018, in *Ramos v. Nielsen*, this Court preliminarily enjoined the Haiti
6 termination and three others, finding that the plaintiffs had shown a likelihood of success on their
7 Administrative Procedure Act claim that the Trump Administration’s terminations arose from an
8 unexplained change in DHS practice, and serious questions on the merits of their Equal Protection
9 claim that the decisions were motivated by racism towards non-white, non-European
10 immigrants.⁷⁸

11 86. On April 11, 2019, in *Saget v. Trump*, a federal district judge in the Eastern District
12 of New York also enjoined the defendants from implementing the Haiti TPS termination. After a
13 week-long hearing, that court similarly concluded that Plaintiffs were likely to prevail on their
14 APA claim and had raised serious questions on the merits of their Equal Protection claims. It
15 found evidence “suggestive of a pre-determined outcome not anchored in an objective assessment,
16 but instead a politically motivated agenda” and of “a discriminatory purpose of removing non-
17 white immigrants from the United States.”⁷⁹

18 87. To comply with these preliminary injunctions, DHS automatically extended TPS for
19 Haiti six times – from October 31, 2018 through June 30, 2024.⁸⁰

23 ⁷⁶ Termination of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 83 Fed. Reg. 2648,
24 2648 (Jan. 18, 2018).

⁷⁷ *Id.*

25 ⁷⁸ *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1097-98, 1108.

26 ⁷⁹ *Saget v. Trump*, 375 F. Supp. 3d 280, 372, 374 (E.D.N.Y. 2019).

27 ⁸⁰ Continuation of Documentation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status Designations
28 for Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador: 83 Fed. Reg. 54764 (Oct. 31, 2018); 84 Fed. Reg.
7103 (Mar. 1, 2019); 84 Fed. Reg. 59403 (Nov. 4, 2019); 85 Fed. Reg. 79208 (Dec. 9, 2020); 86
Fed. Reg. 50725 (Sept. 10, 2021); 87 Fed. Reg. 68717 (Nov. 16, 2022).

1 **Secretary Mayorkas' 2021, 2023, and 2024 Haiti Decisions**

2 88. On August 3, 2021, in the wake of the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel
3 Moïse, Secretary Mayorkas newly designated Haiti for TPS for an eighteen-month period on the
4 basis of extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevented Haitian nationals from returning to
5 Haiti in safety.⁸¹ Secretary Mayorkas cited Haiti's "deteriorating political crisis, violence and a
6 staggering increase in human rights abuses" as well as rising food insecurity and malnutrition,
7 waterborne disease epidemics, and "high vulnerability to natural hazards, all of which have been
8 further exacerbated by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic."⁸²

9 89. On January 26, 2023 Secretary Mayorkas extended Haiti's 2021 designation for
10 eighteen months and also redesignated Haiti for TPS. After a "thorough review" the Secretary
11 concluded that "Haiti is experiencing economic, security, political, and health crises
12 simultaneously," including gang violence, a humanitarian crisis, and political upheaval, and that
13 these extraordinary and temporary conditions continued to prevent Haitian nationals from
14 returning to Haiti in safety.⁸³ The Secretary also concluded that "redesignation is not contrary to
15 the national interest of the United States."⁸⁴

16 90. On July 1, 2024, DHS again extended and redesignated Haiti for TPS on the basis of
17 extraordinary and temporary conditions. Secretary Mayorkas found that "Haiti continues to
18 experience simultaneous economic, security, political, and health crises," including the continuing
19 threat of gang violence, the dysfunctional and worsening political situation, and limited access of
20 citizens to healthcare, food, and water.⁸⁵ He further found that "it is not contrary to the national
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22

23 ⁸¹ Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 86 Fed. Reg. 41863, 418643 (Aug. 3,
24 2021).

25 ⁸² *Id.* at 41864.

26 ⁸³ Extension and Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 88 Fed. Reg. 5022, 5025
(Jan. 26, 2023).

27 ⁸⁴ *Id.*

28 ⁸⁵ Extension and Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 89 Fed. Reg. 54484,
54487 (July 1, 2024).

1 interest of the United States to permit Haitian TPS beneficiaries to remain in the United States
2 temporarily.”⁸⁶

3 91. The July 2024 Federal Register notice announced that Haiti’s TPS extension and
4 redesignation “will remain in effect for 18 months, ending on February 3, 2026.”⁸⁷

5 **Secretary Noem’s February 2025 Partial Vacatur of TPS for Haiti**

6 92. On February 20, 2025, DHS issued a press release titled “Secretary Noem Rescinds
7 Previous Administration’s Extension of Haiti’s Temporary Protected Status.”⁸⁸ The release
8 announced that Secretary Noem had “vacated a decision by the previous administration to extend
9 Haiti’s [TPS] by 18 months” as “part of President Trump’s promise to rescind policies that were
10 magnets for illegal immigration and inconsistent with the law.”⁸⁹ The release asserted that “[f]or
11 decades the TPS system has been exploited and abused” and claimed that “Biden and Mayorkas
12 attempted to tie the hands of the Trump administration by extending Haiti’s Temporary Protected
13 Status by 18 months.”⁹⁰ The release makes this assertion despite that the 2024 Haiti redesignation
14 and extension notice was from July, well before the election of Donald Trump as president.

15 93. Later that same day, DHS “pre-published” a Federal Register notice entitled “Partial
16 Vacatur of 2024 Temporary Protected Status Decision for Haiti.”⁹¹ In the notice, Secretary Noem
17 explains that she had “reconsider[ed]” the July 2024 Haitian Redesignation and Extension in light
18 of the directive in President Trump’s Executive Order 14159, *Protecting the American People*
19 *Against Invasion*, “to ensure that the TPS designations are consistent with the TPS statute and
20
21

22 _____
23 ⁸⁶ *Id.* at 54491.

24 ⁸⁷ *Id.* at 54485.

25 ⁸⁸ Press Release, DHS, Secretary Noem Rescinds Previous Administration's Extension of Haiti’s
26 TPS (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/02/20/secretary-noem-rescinds-extension-haitis-temporary-protected-status>.

27 ⁸⁹ *Id.*

28 ⁹⁰ *Id.*

⁹¹ Partial Vacatur of 2024 Temporary Protected Status Decision for Haiti, 90 Fed. Reg. 10511-01
(Feb. 24, 2025).

1 ‘are appropriately limited in scope and made for only so long as may be necessary to fulfill the
2 textual requirements of that statute.’”⁹²

3 94. Secretary Noem further announced that she was “partially vacating the June 4,
4 2024,⁹³ decision to reduce the designation and extension period from eighteen months to twelve
5 months and to make a corresponding change to the initial registration period for new applicants
6 under the 2024 designation,” cutting that registration period short by six months.⁹⁴

7 95. Under the partial vacatur, Haiti’s TPS designation is set to end on August 3, 2025,
8 unless extended. The Federal Register notice instructs:

9 [e]mployers, and Federal, State and local government agencies (such
10 as Departments of Motor Vehicles) that previously accepted or are
11 presented with an EAD with the TPS category code of A-12 or C-19
12 that expires on February 3, 2026 must update their records to note that
the validity date of the document is through August 3, 2025.⁹⁵

13 96. As justification for the partial vacatur, the Federal Register notice stated that the
14 2024 extension was invalid because it did not specify why an eighteen-month period was selected
15 for extension, as opposed to a six- or twelve-month period, and asserted that the congressionally
16 authorized “default extension period” is six months.⁹⁶ The notice also asserted that Secretary
17 Mayorkas did not provide enough detail as to why TPS for Haitians was not “contrary to the
18 national interest,” particularly as applied to “those who entered the country unlawfully.”⁹⁷
19 Additionally, Secretary Noem said that the 2024 Extension cited statistics from 2022-2023, in
20 addition to earlier years, suggesting that these were outdated statistics, albeit acknowledging that

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22 ⁹² *Id.* at 10513.

23 ⁹³ Secretary Noem refers to the July 1, 2024 Haiti Extension and Redesignation as the “June 4,
24 2024 decision” throughout the Federal Register notice, although the decision was published on
25 July 1, 2024 and was apparently first announced on June 28, 2024. *See* Press Release, DHS,
Secretary Mayorkas Announces Extension and Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected
Status (June 28, 2024), <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2024/06/28/secretary-mayorkas-announces-extension-and-redesignation-haiti-temporary-protected>.

26 ⁹⁴ 90 Fed. Reg. at 10514.

27 ⁹⁵ *Id.*

28 ⁹⁶ *Id.* at 10513–14.

⁹⁷ *Id.* at 10513.

1 the July 2024 notice “cites some country conditions reports that are relatively proximate to the []
2 decision.”⁹⁸

3 97. DHS estimates that 521,000 Haitian nationals rely on TPS for legal status and work
4 authorization.⁹⁹ The Secretary described this unprecedented action to eliminate six months of legal
5 status and work authorization for over 500,000 people as “modest.”¹⁰⁰ She considered that her
6 actions adequately contemplated any “putative reliance interests” in the July 2024 decision
7 because Haitians have been able to register for the extension for seven months; and because she
8 made the decision to only partially vacate the extension rather than vacate it in its entirety.¹⁰¹

9 98. Secretary Noem stated that DHS will not recall existing TPS-related documentation,
10 including work permits with a February 3, 2026 end date (which many Haitian TPS holders have),
11 but stated that these documents will only remain valid through August 3, 2025, contrary to the
12 express language on the documents.¹⁰² *Id.*

13 99. Secretary Noem’s justifications for the partial vacatur of TPS for Haiti have no
14 support in either the historical record of TPS determinations or statutory language. First, the TPS
15 statute authorizes Secretaries to designate or extend TPS for six-, twelve-, or eighteen-month
16 durations, but does not create any separate requirement that a Secretary must explain the reason to
17 choose a particular duration (beyond her implicit judgment as to how long conditions are likely to
18 remain unsafe).¹⁰³ Over the 35-year history of the statute, in virtually all cases in which
19 Secretaries designated or extended TPS for a country, they announced the length of the
20 designation without elaborating their reasons for choosing *that* duration and not another. Indeed,
21

22
23 ⁹⁸ *Id.*

24 ⁹⁹ *Trump Administration Cuts Duration of Deportation Protections for 521,000 Haitians*,
25 REUTERS (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/trump-administration-cuts-duration-haitian-deportation-protections-august-2025-02-20/>.

26 ¹⁰⁰ 90 Fed. Reg. at 10514.

27 ¹⁰¹ *Id.*

28 ¹⁰² *Id.*

¹⁰³ See 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(2), (b)(3)(C) (initial designation or extension for period of 6, 12 or
eighteen months, at the “discretion of the [Secretary]”).

1 Secretary Noem’s partial vacatur is itself consistent with that practice; it does not explain why it
2 chose a twelve-month period.

3 100. In the context of Haiti, no Secretary has ever explained in the Federal Register why
4 they chose a particular duration rather than an alternative. Even when Secretary Kelly announced
5 the atypical six-month extension of TPS in 2017, he did not elaborate on his reasoning for
6 choosing that duration, or explain why a longer duration was not appropriate.¹⁰⁴

7 101. Contrary to Secretary Noem’s statement in the Federal Register, there is no default
8 period for an affirmative decision to extend a TPS designation; the six-month default applies only
9 if the Secretary fails to make any determination. Of the more than 200 TPS extensions that have
10 occurred since 1990, TPS has been extended for a six-month period on only a handful of
11 occasions—for instance, in Secretary Kelly’s atypical six-month extension of TPS for Haiti, a few
12 times when an automatic extension was granted due to the failure of a Secretary to make a timely
13 determination, and in a few other instances, such as during the short-lived Ebola crisis.¹⁰⁵

14 102. Second, while Section 1254a(b)(1)(C) prohibits the Secretary from designating a
15 country for TPS if she finds that doing so “is contrary to the national interest of the United
16 States,”¹⁰⁶ the statute does *not* require that a Secretary elaborate the reasons why a designation is
17 *not* contrary to the national interest. Further, national interest is relevant only to whether a country
18 should be designated for TPS initially, not whether an existing designation should be extended.¹⁰⁷

19 103. The historical practice is consistent with the statute’s mandate: when explaining
20 designations pursuant to Section 1254a(b)(1)(C), Secretaries typically assert that the designation is
21 “not contrary to the national interest,” but do not elaborate further. And Secretary Noem’s
22 February 1, 2025 termination of TPS for Venezuela is the only instance in the 35-year history of

23 ¹⁰⁴ See 82 Fed. Reg. at 23830-01.

24 ¹⁰⁵ See *id.* (Secretary Kelly’s 2017 six-month extension of TPS for Haiti prior to termination); 65
25 Fed. Reg. 52789-02, 65 Fed. Reg. 15016, and 82 Fed. Reg. 59630-02 (automatic six-month
26 extensions of TPS for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Guinea Bissau & Honduras due to the failure to make
27 a timely determination); 61 Fed. Reg. 29428 and 61 Fed. Reg. 58425, (six-month extensions of
28 TPS for Rwanda); 81 Fed. Reg. 15339, 81 Fed. Reg. 15328, 81 Fed. Reg. 15334 (six-month
extensions of TPS for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone in context of Ebola crisis).

¹⁰⁶ 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1)(C).

¹⁰⁷ See ¶ 76, *supra*.

1 TPS in which a Secretary has terminated a TPS designation due to a finding that the designation
2 was *no longer* in the national interest.

3 104. Lastly, Secretary Noem’s stated concern that the July 2024 notice considered
4 outdated statistics is supported by neither the statute nor historical practice—the statute does not
5 limit what kinds of evidence may be considered, and Secretaries have traditionally considered
6 facts both close in time to and further from the determination, as the July 2024 notice also does.

7 **THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO END TPS**

8 **PROTECTIONS AND DESTROY THE TPS PROGRAM**

9 **Secretary Noem, President Trump, and Vice President Vance Promised to Terminate TPS**

10 105. Secretary Noem, President Trump and Vice President Vance have repeatedly
11 characterized TPS itself as illegal, and committed to terminate TPS long before the Secretary had
12 any opportunity to consider the factors required by the statute. Secretary Noem’s Venezuela and
13 Haiti decisions treat the program itself, and those protected by it, as illegal.

14 106. DHS never acknowledged or explained the departure from the agency’s prior
15 recognition that Congress lawfully authorized TPS designations, that TPS is itself legal, and that
16 individual TPS designations may be in the national interest.

17 107. Both prior to and since assuming her position running DHS, Secretary Noem has
18 reiterated her view that TPS, as it has been used, is illegal. At her confirmation hearing, Secretary
19 Noem stated that “[TPS] has been abused and manipulated by the Biden Administration and that
20 will no longer be allowed . . . and these extensions going forward the way that they are, the
21 program was intended to be temporary[.]”¹⁰⁸

22 108. Secretary Noem defined TPS holders as law violators just by virtue of having this
23 humanitarian status. In announcing her decision to end TPS for Venezuela, Secretary Noem said
24 the termination “stopped” former Secretary Mayorkas from letting Venezuelan TPS holders “stay
25 here and violate our laws for another 18 months.”¹⁰⁹

26
27 ¹⁰⁸ Dkt. 37-12 at 104.

28 ¹⁰⁹ Dkt. 37-14 at 2–3.

1 109. In a February 2, 2025 “Meet the Press” appearance the day the Venezuela vacatur
2 was published, Secretary Noem said, “[T]he TPP *[sic]* program has been abused, and it doesn’t
3 have integrity right now.”¹¹⁰

4 110. In her February 20, 2025 press statement announcing the partial vacatur of TPS for
5 Haiti, Secretary Noem elaborated, with emphasis, that “TPS is a type of immigration status
6 available to nationals of certain designated countries that allows aliens, **even if they entered the**
7 **country illegally**, the ability to reside **temporarily** in the U.S.”¹¹¹ The press statement reiterated
8 what Secretary Noem asserted at her confirmation hearing—her belief that “[f]or decades the TPS
9 system has been exploited and abused.” DHS used as an “example” of the “exploit[ation]” of the
10 system that “Haiti has been designated for TPS since 2010”; and that “more Haitian nationals,
11 even those who entered the U.S. illegally” have benefited from “each extension.” (Here, she
12 presumably meant each “redesignation,” because an extension does not allow additional Haitian
13 nationals to benefit). DHS also stated that, by partially vacating the lawfully granted extension, it
14 was “returning integrity to the TPS system,” and “returning TPS to its original status: temporary.”
15 The press statement also referenced the rescission of the previous administration’s extension of
16 TPS for Venezuela, apparently linking these two vacatures to the same goal.

17 111. President Trump, Vice President Vance, and Trump surrogates have likewise
18 championed the view that TPS designations are “illegal”—or, in the Vice President’s words, a
19 “magic government wand.”¹¹² They have made clear their intent to target TPS and/or TPS
20 designations for termination.

21 112. President Trump, while campaigning, said that he would personally revoke TPS and
22 that he did not consider it legal. President Trump responded to an interviewer’s question as to

23
24 ¹¹⁰ Dkt. 37-15 at 18.

25 ¹¹¹ Press Release, *Secretary Noem Rescinds Previous Administration's Extension of Haiti's TPS*,
DHS (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/02/20/secretary-noem-rescinds-extension-haitis-temporary-protected-status> (emphasis in original).

26 ¹¹² See Chris Cameron, *Vance Vows an End to Programs for Legal Immigrants*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct.
27 22, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/vance-trump-legal-immigrants.html>;
28 Miriam Jordan & Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Immigration Targets: Ukrainians, Venezuelans, Haitians*, N.Y. TIMES (Nov. 15, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/15/us/trump-immigrants-temporary-protected-status.html>.

1 whether Haitian TPS holders in Springfield, Ohio were “legal or illegal” and whether he would
2 “revoke TPS status” by saying: “You have to remove the people; you cannot destroy our country
3 . . . In my opinion, it’s not legal. . . . Absolutely I would revoke [TPS].”¹¹³

4 113. Though TPS holders in Springfield, Ohio were welcomed by local officials and
5 employers, and legally authorized to live and work in the United States through the TPS program,
6 President Trump decried TPS as a “little trick,” asserting Haitian migrants “are illegal immigrants
7 as far as I’m concerned. They’re destroying the towns. . . . [T]hey’ll end up destroying the
8 state!”¹¹⁴ He asserted he would “do large deportations in Springfield, Ohio,” despite having
9 acknowledged that the Haitians in Springfield about which he was speaking were TPS holders.¹¹⁵

10 114. Vice President Vance, during the campaign, expressed a goal of ending TPS: “We’re
11 going to stop doing mass grants of Temporary Protected Status. Of course, you’re going to have
12 people fleeing from tyranny, but that happens on a case-by-case basis, not by waving the magic
13 government wand.”¹¹⁶ Given that TPS is, by statute, designed to *be* a mass grant for all eligible
14 individuals (unlike asylum and other forms of fear-based immigration relief), this statement can
15 only be understood as an attack on TPS itself.

16 115. Vice President Vance expressed this view repeatedly. In a September 2024 CNN
17 interview, he disputed the anchor’s characterization of TPS holders as being in the United States
18 legally. The future vice president called TPS designations a “magic amnesty wand . . . giving
19

20 ¹¹³ Damita Menezes & Ali Bradley, *Trump on Springfield Haitian Migrants: ‘They Have to Be*
21 *Removed,’* NEWSNATION (Oct. 2, 2024) at approx. 12:00,
22 [https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-](https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-removed/)
23 [removed/](https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-removed/); Maggie Astor, *Trump Says He Would Try Again to Revoke Haitian Immigrants’*
24 *Protections*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 3, 2024), [https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/03/us/politics/trump-](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/03/us/politics/trump-haitian-immigrants-legal-status.html)
25 [haitian-immigrants-legal-status.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/03/us/politics/trump-haitian-immigrants-legal-status.html).

26 ¹¹⁴ Edith Olmstead, *Trump Is Now Threatening All Immigrants, “Illegal” or Not*, THE NEW
27 REPUBLIC (Oct. 9, 2024), [https://newrepublic.com/post/186961/donald-trump-racist-attacks-](https://newrepublic.com/post/186961/donald-trump-racist-attacks-springfield-ohio-lie)
28 [springfield-ohio-lie](https://newrepublic.com/post/186961/donald-trump-racist-attacks-springfield-ohio-lie) (“[L]ook at Springfield, where 30,000 illegal immigrants are dropped, and it
was, they may have done it through a certain little trick, but they are illegal immigrants as far as
I’m concerned.”).

¹¹⁵ Alexandra Ulmer *et al.*, *Trump Pledges to Deport Haitians in Ohio City if Elected*, REUTERS
(Sept. 14, 2024), [https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-says-attacks-haitian-immigrants-have-](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-says-attacks-haitian-immigrants-have-stop-2024-09-13/)
stop-2024-09-13/.

¹¹⁶ Chris Cameron, *Vance Vows an End to Programs for Legal Immigrants*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 22,
2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/vance-trump-legal-immigrants.html>.

1 [migrants] legal status. . . . That is not to say they are here legally. That is a terrible indictment of
2 [Vice President Kamala Harris’s] amnesty policies.” The anchor responded that Mr. Vance “might
3 not agree with the [TPS] policy,” but “it is the law.” Mr. Vance replied that Vice President Harris
4 “granted amnesty at a mass level.”¹¹⁷

5 116. At a campaign rally a couple of days later, Mr. Vance doubled down, assailing what
6 he called a “media and Kamala Harris fact check” about Haitian TPS holders. He stated:

7 The media loves to say that the Haitian migrants, hundreds of
8 thousands of them, by the way . . . they are here legally. And what they
9 mean is that Kamala Harris used two separate programs, mass parole
10 and temporary protective status. She used two programs to wave a
11 wand and to say we’re not going to deport those people here. Well, if
12 Kamala Harris waves the wand illegally and says these people are now
13 here legally, I’m still going to call them an illegal alien. An illegal
14 action from Kamala Harris does not make an alien legal.¹¹⁸

15 117. According to the New York Times, Stephen Miller, President Trump’s Deputy Chief
16 of Staff and chief architect of his immigration policy platform, and other top advisers flagged the
17 revocation of TPS as a priority for the incoming administration, again without consideration of
18 country conditions or the merit of any individual designation.¹¹⁹

19 118. Project 2025, “the 2025 Presidential Transition Project,” a product of current and
20 former Trump political appointees, also called for the “[r]epeal [of] TPS designations”—without
21 elaboration as to any consideration of country conditions or any other review criteria or
22 processes.¹²⁰

23 ¹¹⁷ Interview of Senator J.D. Vance, CNN (Sept. 16, 2024) at approx. 5:00,
24 <http://youtube.com/watch?v=djpTr5r0zMQ>.

25 ¹¹⁸ Speech by Senator J.D. Vance at Raleigh, North Carolina Campaign Event, C-Span (Sept. 18,
26 2024) at approx. 41:00, [https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/senator-jd-vance-](https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/senator-jd-vance-campaigns-in-raleigh-north-carolina/649012)
27 [campaigns-in-raleigh-north-carolina/649012](https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/senator-jd-vance-campaigns-in-raleigh-north-carolina/649012).

28 ¹¹⁹ Charlie Savage *et al.*, *Sweeping Raids, Giant Camps and Mass Deportations: Inside Trump’s*
2025 Immigration Plans, N.Y. TIMES (Nov. 11, 2023),
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/11/us/politics/trump-2025-immigration-agenda.html> (“People
who were granted temporary protected status because they are from certain countries deemed
unsafe, allowing them to lawfully live and work in the United States, would have that status
revoked.”).

¹²⁰ Paul Dans & Steven Groves, eds., “Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise,” at
150, https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf.

1 119. President Trump’s motivation to terminate TPS is not new. During the first Trump
2 Administration, DHS Secretaries faced unrelenting pressure from the White House to reach its
3 “desired result of terminating TPS” and responded by ordering pre-textual terminations of TPS
4 designations for nearly everyone who held the status. Those termination decisions were ultimately
5 struck down in litigation.¹²¹

6 120. Secretary Noem’s actions follow this familiar pattern, and show that she was
7 motivated in part in response to a clear mandate from President Trump and other Trump
8 administration immigration officials. This is evident by her reliance on President Trump’s policy
9 objections to support both her determination that extending TPS for Venezuela was not in the
10 national interest and her partial vacatur of the Haiti designation and extension.

11 **SECRETARY NOEM AND PRESIDENT TRUMP EXPRESSED DISCRIMINATORY**
12 **ANIMUS TOWARDS VENEZUELAN AND HAITIAN TPS HOLDERS**

13 121. Secretary Noem’s vacatur and termination decisions were motivated in significant
14 part by animus against Venezuelans and Haitians based on their perceived race, ethnicity, and
15 national origin. The animus is evidenced by numerous statements made by Secretary Noem,
16 President Trump and other Trump administration officials. A limited number of those statements
17 are described herein. They leave no doubt as to the speaker’s discriminatory motives against non-
18 white immigrants in general and Venezuelans and Haitians in particular.

19
20
21
22 ¹²¹ *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1081 (granting preliminary injunction enjoining implementation of
23 TPS terminations for Sudan, Haiti, El Salvador, and Nicaragua); *see also Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at
24 379 (finding Plaintiffs likely to succeed on claims that 2018 termination of Haiti’s TPS
25 designation violated the APA and the equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment Due
26 Process Clause and issuing preliminary injunction); *Centro Presente v. DHS*, 332 F. Supp. 3d 393,
27 416 (D. Mass. 2018) (denying motion to dismiss and explaining “there is no justification, explicit
28 or otherwise, for Defendants’ switch to focusing on whether the conditions that caused the initial
designation had abated rather than a fuller evaluation of whether the country would be able to
safely accept returnees”); *CASA de Md., Inc. v. Trump*, 355 F. Supp. 3d 307, 312–13, 329 (D. Md.
2018) (denying motion to dismiss because plaintiffs plausibly alleged equal protection and APA
challenge).

1 **Secretary Noem's Racist Statements**

2 122. In announcing the vacatur of the Venezuela TPS extension in a “Fox and Friends”
3 interview on January 29, 2025, Secretary Noem described Venezuelans in the United States as
4 “dirt bags”: “Today we signed an executive order within the Department of Homeland Security in
5 a direction that we were not going to follow through on what he [former Secretary Mayorkas] did
6 to tie our hands, that we are going to follow the process, evaluate all of these individuals that are
7 in our country, including the Venezuelans that are here and members of TdA. Listen, . . . the
8 people of this country want *these dirt bags* out. They want their communities to be safe. . . . So,
9 this is part of our plan to make sure that we’re protecting America, keeping it safe again, just like
10 President Trump promised.”¹²²

11 123. This was not an isolated occurrence. Secretary Noem has repeatedly described
12 immigrants, and particularly those from Venezuela, as “dirt bags.”¹²³

13 124. The vast majority of Venezuelan TPS holders have no criminal history, and in
14 general people are ineligible for TPS if they have more than a single misdemeanor conviction.
15 Nonetheless, Secretary Noem has also sought to disparage Venezuelan TPS holders as
16 “criminals.” At her confirmation hearing, Secretary Noem said: “[T]his extension [of TPS] of over
17 600,000 Venezuelans [] is alarming when you look at what we’ve seen in different states,
18 including Colorado with gangs doing damage and harming the individuals and the people that live
19 there.”¹²⁴

20 125. She has also repeatedly conflated Venezuelan TPS holders with members of a
21 Venezuelan gang which the Trump administration designated as a foreign terrorist organization.

22 _____
23 ¹²² Dkt. 37-14 at 3 (emphasis added).

24 ¹²³ @Sec_Noem, X (Jan. 28, 2025, 7:35 AM),
25 https://x.com/Sec_Noem/status/1884264039158800547 (“Getting the dirt bags off the streets.”);
26 *DHS Secretary Kristi Noem Joins Federal Agents on Immigration Raids in New York*, CBS
27 MORNINGS (Jan. 29, 2025) at approx. 1:10, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tODarHnNiNs>
28 (“These guys are dirtbags. They have come in and perpetuated violence in this country.”). The
CBS reporter who accompanied Secretary Noem on New York City raids she references reported
that nearly half of those arrested had no criminal history.

¹²⁴ Dkt. 37-12 at 104–05.

1 On the January 29 “Fox and Friends” interview, Secretary Noem described ending TPS for
2 Venezuelans as necessary in order to “evaluate all of these individuals that are in our country,
3 including the Venezuelans that are here and members of TdA,” referring to Tren de Aragua.¹²⁵

4 126. Secretary Noem also conflated TPS holders and Tren de Aragua gang members in
5 the Venezuela termination notice itself. For instance, she asserted that “TPS has allowed a
6 significant population of inadmissible or illegal aliens without a path to lawful immigration status
7 to settle in the interior of the United States,” and that “[a]mong these Venezuelan nationals . . . are
8 members of the Venezuelan gang known as Tren de Aragua.”¹²⁶ The notice makes no assertion
9 that any TPS holders are TdA members; and DHS has provided no evidence of that on any
10 occasion. The notice does not even make any assertion that there is a large number of TdA
11 members in the United States; and DHS has never asserted that either.

12 127. On February 2, 2025, the publication date of the Federal Register notice announcing
13 the vacatur, Secretary Noem appeared on NBC News’ “Meet the Press” and said:

14 [F]olks from Venezuela that have come into this country are members
15 of TdA. And remember, Venezuela purposely emptied out their
16 prisons, emptied out their mental health facilities and sent them to the
17 United States of America. So we are ending that extension of that
18 program, adding some integrity back into it. And this administration’s
19 evaluating all of our programs to make sure they truly are something
20 that’s to the benefit of the United States, so that they’re not to the
21 benefit of criminals.¹²⁷

22 128. Secretary Noem’s baseless assertion that Venezuela emptied out prisons and mental
23 institutions to send people to the United States long predates her term as Secretary. She has made
24 this false claim repeatedly.¹²⁸ One year before she was named DHS Secretary, Noem already

25 ¹²⁵ *DHS Sec. Noem Announces End to Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelan Migrants*, FOX
26 AND FRIENDS (Jan. 29, 2025) at approx. 1:10,
27 [https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msocid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad68603](https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msocid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad686037)
28 7.

¹²⁶ 90 Fed. Reg. at 9042.

¹²⁷ Dkt. 37-15 at 18–19.

¹²⁸ @KristiNoem, X (Feb. 26, 2024, 11:19 AM),
<https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1762195636491825295> (“Nations like Venezuela are emptying

1 targeted Venezuelans for deportation, saying “Venezuela didn’t send us their best. They emptied
2 their prisons and sent criminals to America. Deportations need to start on DAY ONE of [President
3 Trump’s] term” in office.¹²⁹

4 129. In a CBS News interview on March 5, 2024, Secretary Noem asserted that the
5 “invasion” by Venezuelan (and Cuban) immigrants constituted an existential threat to the country.
6 “We’ve seen these countries that hate us empty out their prisons, their mental institutions. They’ve
7 given us their responsibilities and some of the most dangerous people in the world have made their
8 way to the United States of America. . . . [C]ountries such as Venezuela and Cuba have been
9 emptying out their prisons. . . . So we know for a fact that this was facilitated, that the White
10 House has this invasion happening on purpose, and it is to remake the foundation of this
11 country.”¹³⁰

12 130. Secretary Noem’s assertions are not just unsubstantiated; they are false. Tren de
13 Aragua’s “reputation” is overblown, and not matched by “its actual presence in the United
14 States.”¹³¹ “[N]early no claims made by U.S. law enforcement about crimes committed by
15
16

17 their prisons of dangerous criminals to send them to America. They are happy to let America’s
18 open border be the solution to their problem.”); @KristiNoem, X (Feb. 27, 2024, 5:26 PM),
19 <https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1762650522920652828> (Venezuela didn’t send us their best.
20 They emptied their prisons and sent criminals to America.”); @KristiNoem, Instagram (Mar. 6,
21 2024), <https://www.instagram.com/kristinoem/reel/C4ML17eRBYr/> (“Countries like Venezuela
22 are emptying their prisons, their mental institutions, and sending them to America. The White
23 House is facilitating this invasion. They’re doing it on purpose.”); @KristiNoem, X (Mar. 14,
24 2024, 9:24 AM), <https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1768312288560247199> (“At least 300,000
25 illegal immigrants from Venezuela have been encountered at the border. Remember, Venezuela
26 emptied their prisons and told them to come to America.”); @KristiNoem, Instagram (Dec. 9,
27 2024), <https://www.instagram.com/kristinoem/reel/DDVjJnURRqw/> (“[N]ations like Venezuela
28 are using our open border to solve their own crime and mental health crises.”).

¹²⁹ @KristiNoem, X (Feb. 27, 2024, 5:26 PM),
<https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1762650522920652828>.

¹³⁰ *South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem Calls on Nikki Haley to Exit 2024 Race*, CBS NEWS (Mar. 5,
2024) at approx. 3:58, <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/kristi-noem-calls-on-nikki-haley-to-exit-2024-race/>.

¹³¹ Venezuela Investigative Unit, *What We Know About Tren de Aragua’s US Presence*, INSIGHT
CRIME (Oct. 4, 2024), <https://insightcrime.org/news/what-we-know-about-tren-de-araguas-us-presence/>.

1 purported members of TdA have been substantiated by hard evidence that directly connects the
2 accused with the organization in Venezuela.”¹³²

3 131. When investigative journalists sought to study claims about the gang’s activity last
4 year, “none of the [numerous] national, state, and local law enforcement agencies contacted in the
5 U.S. reported any significant presence of Tren de Aragua” in their jurisdictions.¹³³ A 2024 review
6 of state and federal legal databases found zero “U.S. criminal cases mentioning Tren de
7 Aragua.”¹³⁴ The Republican mayor and a Republican City Council member of the Colorado town
8 that President Trump and Secretary Noem claimed had been ravaged by the gang each thoroughly
9 refuted that assertion, with the mayor instead identifying a delinquent property manager as the
10 primary culprit for dilapidated properties, not widespread gang activity.¹³⁵ And a *Washington Post*
11 investigation laid bare the fallacy of DHS’s claim that it had transferred to Guantanamo Tren de
12 Aragua members it described as the “worst of the worst.” *The Washington Post* found no evidence
13 that those transferred were even Tren de Aragua members, and experts have consistently rejected
14 the assertion that there were more than a few hundred TdA members in the United States at all.¹³⁶

15 132. DHS itself identified only 600 Venezuelan migrants “who may have connections” to
16 Tren de Aragua—including not just members, but also victims, witnesses, or subjects of

17
18 ¹³² Charles Larratt-Smith & John Polga-Hecimovich, *How Much of a Threat is Tren de Aragua in*
19 *the U.S.?*, AMERICAS QUARTERLY (Dec. 9, 2024), [https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-](https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/)
20 [of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/](https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/) (“[I]t’s unlikely the group has much power or reach in the
21 U.S., where other organized criminal organizations pose much more of a threat to citizens and
22 TdA itself.”).

23 ¹³³ Venezuela Investigative Unit, *Is Venezuela’s Tren de Aragua ‘Invading’ the US?*, INSIGHT
24 CRIME (Apr. 1, 2024), <https://insightcrime.org/news/is-venezuelas-tren-de-aragua-invading-us/>
25 (“Police agencies in major urban areas across the United States – including Los Angeles, Phoenix,
26 Dallas, San Antonio, and Denver – told InSight Crime that they had no reports of crimes
27 committed by Tren de Aragua in their jurisdictions.”).

28 ¹³⁴ *Id.*

¹³⁵ Jonathan Weisman, *How the False Story of a Gang ‘Takeover’ in Colorado Reached Trump*,
N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 15, 2024), [https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/15/us/politics/trump-aurora-](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/15/us/politics/trump-aurora-colorado-immigration.html)
[colorado-immigration.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/15/us/politics/trump-aurora-colorado-immigration.html).

¹³⁶ Silvia Foster-Frau *et al.*, *Relatives and Records Cast Doubt on Guantánamo Migrants Being*
27 *‘Worst of the Worst’*, WASH. POST (Feb. 16, 2025),
28 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/16/trump-guantanamo-migrants-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/16/trump-guantanamo-migrants-deportations-venezuela/)
[deportations-venezuela/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/16/trump-guantanamo-migrants-deportations-venezuela/).

1 interest.¹³⁷ After transferring approximately 200 Venezuelans to El Salvador without due process,
2 based on an assertion that most were members of TdA, a DHS Acting Field Office Director
3 provided in sworn declarations that: 1) most of those transferred had no criminal records; and 2)
4 there were only 258 alleged TdA members in U.S. custody at all—most of whom were not
5 detained at all but in removal proceedings on the non-detained docket.¹³⁸ Lawyers and family
6 members contested the allegations that even these targeted individuals subject to removal to a
7 third country on untested gang allegations alone had any association with TdA at all.¹³⁹

8 133. The claim that Venezuelan prisons and mental health facilities are being emptied out
9 to send their residents to the United States is also false. “There is no evidence that the Venezuelan
10 government is systemically or selectively releasing prisoners and expelling them from the
11 country.”¹⁴⁰ Nor has President Trump provided any substantiation for this repeated assertion.¹⁴¹
12 Experts contend that there simply *aren’t* psychiatric hospitals filled with mentally ill people in
13 Venezuela to be released.¹⁴²

14
15 ¹³⁷ Julia Ainsley, *DHS Is Seeking More than 600 Migrants for Possible Ties to Venezuelan Gang*,
16 NBC NEWS (Oct. 23, 2024), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/dhs-identified-600-migrants-possible-ties-venezuelan-gang-rcna176020>.

17 ¹³⁸ Declaration of Robert L. Cerna, Mar. 17, 2025, ¶ 9 (“many of the TdA members removed
18 under the [Alien Enemies Act] do not have criminal records in the United States”), Dkt. 26-1,
19 Case No. 25-cv-766 (D.D.C.); Declaration of Robert L. Cerna, Mar. 18, 2025, ¶ 6 (identifying 54
20 purported TdA “members” detained by ICE, 172 purported “members” in removal proceedings on
21 the non-detained docket, and approximately 32 in criminal custody), Dkt. 28-1, Case No. 25-cv-
22 766 (D.D.C.).

23 ¹³⁹ See, e.g., Jazmine Ulloa & Zolan Kanno-Youngs, *Trump Officials Say Deportees Were Gang*
24 *Members. Few Details Were Disclosed*, Mar. 18, 2025, N.Y. TIMES,
25 <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/18/us/trump-deportations-venezuela-gang.html>.

26 ¹⁴⁰ Jorge Valencia, *Trump Says Venezuela Sends Criminals to the U.S. Here’s What to Know*, N.Y.
27 TIMES (July 31, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/31/world/americas/trump-crime-venezuela-us.html> (describing the lack of any evidence for the assertion that Venezuela is
28 emptying prisons and expelling prisoners to the United States, and considering it “highly unlikely”).

¹⁴¹ Daniel Dale, *Fact Check: Trump’s Own Campaign Can’t Find Proof for His ‘Mental Institutions’ Immigration Story*, CNN (Apr. 29, 2023),
<https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/29/politics/fact-check-trump-mental-institutions-migrants-doctor/index.html>.

¹⁴² Maria Ramirez Uribe & Amy Sherman, *Trump’s Ridiculous Claim that ‘Millions’ of Immigrants Came Illegally from Jails, Mental Facilities*, POLITIFACT (June 6, 2024),
<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2024/jun/06/donald-trump/fact-check-trumps-ridiculous->

1 **President Trump's Racist Statements**

2 134. From his candidacy for his first term as president through the present, President
3 Trump has repeatedly denigrated people perceived to be non-white immigrants. He has
4 specifically targeted both TPS holders generally and Venezuelans and Haitians.

5 135. Secretary Noem's reliance on President Trump's objectives in justifying her vacatur
6 and termination decisions demonstrated her adoption of President Trump's animus as well as her
7 response to pressure from President Trump and the White House to reach a quick decision to end
8 TPS protections. Indeed, when publicizing the Venezuela TPS vacatur in a January 29, 2025
9 interview, Secretary Noem explained that the vacatur reflected President Trump's "desire" to
10 make sure TPS was "used properly," adding that "when the President gives a directive, the
11 Department of Homeland Security will follow it."¹⁴³ The February 5, 2025 termination notice for
12 Venezuela and the February 24, 2025 partial vacatur notice for Haiti both explicitly cite President
13 Trump's immigration policy agenda as justifications.¹⁴⁴

14 136. During his prior administration, President Trump repeatedly denigrated immigrants
15 from countries designated for TPS, including Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras. Most infamously,
16 he referred to countries designated for TPS as "shithole" countries in a conversation with
17 legislators about TPS, saying "Why do we need more Haitians?" He asked officials to "take them
18 out" of the immigration proposal. He expressed a preference, instead, for immigrants from
19 countries "such as Norway."¹⁴⁵

20
21
22 claim-that-millions-o/ (quoting an immigrant behavioral health expert to conclude that President
23 Trump's assertion that Venezuela was emptying mental health facilities and sending residents to
the United States "does not make sense because those numbers are not there").

24 ¹⁴³ @Sec_Noem, X (Jan. 29, 2025),
25 https://x.com/sec_noem/status/1884752724194963594?s=46&t=DFMGDqrcqeJ4X9klKmN2s
(statement appears in posted video clip from CNN interview).

26 ¹⁴⁴ 90 Fed. Reg. at 9042; 90 Fed. Reg. at 10513.

27 ¹⁴⁵ Josh Dawsey, *Trump Derides Protections for Immigrants from 'Shithole' Countries*, WASH.
28 POST (Jan. 12, 2018), https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-attacks-protections-for-immigrants-from-shithole-countries-in-oval-office-meeting/2018/01/11/bfc0725c-f711-11e7-91af-31ac729add94_story.html?utm_term=.06cbc70bfaec.

1 137. During his recent campaign, President Trump defended these remarks, reiterating
2 comparisons between “nice countries, you know like Denmark, Switzerland” and “Norway,” and
3 “unbelievable places and countries, countries that are a disaster,” when speaking about
4 immigrants.¹⁴⁶

5 138. President Trump has sought to dehumanize immigrants, including TPS holders in
6 particular, through other statements. For months, he repeated and amplified the false claim that
7 Haitian TPS holders were “eating the dogs” and “eating the cats,” “eating the pets of the people
8 that live” in Springfield, Ohio.¹⁴⁷ President Trump called Haitians in Springfield with lawful TPS
9 status “illegal migrant[s]” who “descended upon a town of 58,000 people, destroying their way of
10 life.”¹⁴⁸ Shortly after these statements, there were several bomb threats against hospitals,
11 government buildings, and schools in Springfield.¹⁴⁹

12 139. President Trump has also repeatedly, and falsely, claimed that Haitians “all have
13 AIDS.”¹⁵⁰ In 2021, he stated that Haiti had a “tremendous problem with AIDS” and that “[m]any
14
15
16

17 ¹⁴⁶ Maggie Haberman & Michael Gold, *Trump, at Fund-Raiser, Says He Wants Immigrants from*
18 *‘Nice’ Countries*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 7, 2024),
19 <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/07/us/politics/trump-immigrants-nice-countries.html> (“These
20 are people coming in from prisons and jails. They’re coming in from just unbelievable places and
21 countries, countries that are a disaster.”).

22 ¹⁴⁷ See, e.g., Dkt. 37-8 at 29.

23 ¹⁴⁸ Sam Levine, *‘They’ve Destroyed the Place’: Trump Repeats Racist, Anti-immigrant Lies*, THE
24 GUARDIAN (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/sep/13/trump-repeats-lies-haitian-immigrants>; see also Damita Menezes & Ali Bradley, *Trump on Springfield Haitian Migrants: ‘They Have to Be Removed,’* NEWSNATION (Oct. 2, 2024) at approx. 12:45,
25 <https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-removed/> (“Springfield is such a beautiful place. Have you seen what’s happened to it? It’s been
26 overrun. You can’t do that to people. . . . I’d revoke [TPS], and I’d bring [the migrants] back to
27 their country.”).

28 ¹⁴⁹ Edward Helmore, *More Bomb Threats Hit Springfield, Ohio, after Trump Elevates False Claims about Haitians*, THE GUARDIAN (Sep. 14, 2024), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/sep/14/more-bomb-threats-hit-springfield-ohio-after-trump-elevates-false-claims-about-haitians>.

¹⁵⁰ *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 371 (citing President Trump’s statements that “Haitians ‘all have AIDS’” as evidence of racial animus).

1 of those [Haitian] people will probably have AIDS and they're coming into our country and we
2 don't do anything about it. We let everybody come in. It's like a death wish for our country.”¹⁵¹

3 140. President Trump has often compared immigrants to snakes that will bite and kill
4 anyone foolish enough to shelter them.¹⁵² He has also described non-white immigrants as
5 “animals.”¹⁵³ For example, President Trump said about some undocumented immigrants during a
6 March 2024 rally, “I don't know if you call them people. In some cases they're not people, in my
7 opinion, but I'm not allowed to say that[.]”¹⁵⁴

8 141. President Trump has repeatedly described immigrants in the United States as an
9 “invasion,” repeatedly conflating migrants with “criminals, gang members and terrorists.”¹⁵⁵

10 ¹⁵¹ *Trump Slams Haitians Attempting to Enter U.S., Says They 'Probably Have AIDS,'* ABC 7
11 (Oct. 10, 2021), <https://abc7.com/haitian-migrants-donald-trump-former-president-immigration/11108741/>.

12 ¹⁵² See, e.g., Dara Lind, “*The Snake*”: Donald Trump Brings Back His Favorite Anti-Immigrant
13 Fable at CPAC, VOX (Feb. 23, 2018), www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/23/17044744/trump-snake-speech-cpac; see also Julie Hirschfeld Davis, *Trump Calls Some Unauthorized Immigrants 'Animals' in Rant*, N.Y. TIMES (May 16, 2018),
14 www.nytimes.com/2018/05/16/us/politics/trump-undocumented-immigrants-animals.html; see
15 also John Bennett, “*Dumping Ground*”: Trump Echoes Conservative “Project 2025” at First
16 Rally as Felon, ROLL CALL (June 10, 2024), <https://rollcall.com/2024/06/10/dumping-ground-trump-echoes-conservative-project-2025-at-first-rally-as-a-felon/> (“[W]e're taking in people that
17 are a disaster for our country. So it's all happening at our border.... And we're not going to let it
18 happen, we're not going to let them ruin our country, we're not going to let them destroy our
country. . . . The whole country is being turned into an absolute dumping ground[.]”).

19 ¹⁵³ Miriam Valverde, *In Context: Donald Trump's Comments about Immigrations, 'Animals,'*
20 POLITIFACT (May 17, 2018), <https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2018/may/17/context-donald-trumps-comments-about-immigrants-an/> (relying on
21 MS-13 to claim that undocumented immigrants “aren't people. These are animals.”).

22 ¹⁵⁴ Ariana Figueroa, *Trump Promises Mass Deportations of Undocumented People. How Would That Work?*, MISSOURI INDEPENDENT (Aug. 23, 2024),
23 <https://missouriindependent.com/2024/08/23/trump-promises-mass-deportations-of-undocumented-people-how-would-that-work/>.

24 ¹⁵⁵ See, e.g., Donald Trump, *Donald Trump: This Is How I Will End Joe Biden's Border Disaster on Day One*, DES MOINES REGISTER (Jan. 3, 2024),
25 <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/caucus/2024/01/03/donald-trump-joe-biden-border-disaster/72093156007/> (“I am the only candidate who will stop this invasion.”);
26 TIME, *Read the Full Transcripts of Donald Trump's Interviews with TIME*, Apr. 2024,
27 <https://time.com/6972022/donald-trump-transcript-2024-election/> (“This is an invasion of our
country. An invasion like probably no country has ever seen before. They're coming in by the
28 millions.”); see also Ben Zimmer, *Where Does Trump's 'Invasion' Rhetoric Come From?*, THE

1 142. President Trump, while campaigning in 2023, repeatedly decried non-white
2 immigrants for “poisoning the blood of our country.”¹⁵⁶

3 143. In October 2024, during an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt,
4 President Trump further emphasized the genetic inferiority of non-white immigrants. He said:
5 “How about allowing people to come to an open border Many of them murdered far more
6 than one person, and they’re now happily living in the United States.” He stated: “You know, now
7 a murderer, I believe this, it’s in their genes. And we got a lot of bad genes in our country right
8 now.” In contrast, when addressing a predominately white crowd at a campaign rally in
9 Minnesota, he told them that they have “good genes.”¹⁵⁷

10 144. At a rally one week before the 2024 election, President Trump described the country
11 as “occupied” by criminal migrants—heaping scorn on “savage” Venezuelan gang members in
12 particular. “We’re not going to have a country any longer. That’s who we’re allowing in. The
13 United States is now an occupied country, but it will soon be an occupied country no longer. . . .
14 November 5th, 2024 . . . will be Liberation Day in America. . . . I will rescue every city and town
15 that has been invaded and conquered.”¹⁵⁸

16 145. During his first term in office, President Trump also conflated large groups of
17 immigrants, and sometimes even all of them, with members of the MS-13 gang.¹⁵⁹ In his first
18 State of the Union address, he suggested that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

19
20 ATLANTIC (Aug. 6, 2019), <https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2019/08/trump-immigrant-invasion-language-origins/595579/> (tracing the historical “roots of the ‘immigration invasion’ rhetoric that President Donald Trump has championed”); id. (discussing, for example, nineteenth-century rhetoric about a Chinese immigrant “invasion” “leading to” the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882).

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22
23 ¹⁵⁶ Dkt. 37-7 at 2; Raheem Kassam, Raheem Kassam Interviews Donald Trump, YOUTUBE (Sept. 2023) at approx. 1:34 to 1:45, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v283kLQbe1M&t=89s>.

24 ¹⁵⁷ Jack Traylor *et al.*, *Trump Suggests Immigrants Have ‘Bad Genes’ in Latest Disparagement of Migrants*, NBC NEWS (Oct. 7, 2024), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trumpsuggests-immigrants-bad-genes-latest-disparagement-migrants-rcna174271>.
25

26 ¹⁵⁸ Dkt. 37-10 at 12.

27 ¹⁵⁹ Terry Gross, *Trump Uses MS-13 To ‘Sell Draconian Overhauls of Border Issues,’ Journalist Says*, NPR (Feb. 15, 2018), <https://www.npr.org/2018/02/15/585937834/trump-uses-ms-13-to-sell-draconian-overhauls-of-border-issues-journalist-says>.
28

1 (“DACA”) program, recipients of which are immigrants first brought to the United States as
2 children many years ago, contributed to the spread of MS-13.¹⁶⁰

3 146. During his first term, when referencing 40,000 Nigerian immigrants, he complained
4 that they would “never go back to their huts” in Africa, expressing his disdain for Black
5 immigrants.¹⁶¹

6 147. During a January 2025 interview on Fox News, President Trump falsely claimed
7 that people from “jails and mental institutions from other countries and gang members, right off
8 the streets of the toughest cities in the world, are being brought to the United States of America
9 and emptied out into our country.”¹⁶² There is no basis for this claim.¹⁶³

10 148. In the same interview, President Trump underscored his prejudice by stating that
11 “you can look at” “some” migrants “and you can say ‘could be trouble, could be trouble.’.”¹⁶⁴

12 149. Like Secretary Noem, President Trump has singled out Venezuela for particular
13 opprobrium. He has contended that Venezuelans have “destroyed the fabric of our country.”¹⁶⁵

14 150. President Trump has used dehumanizing language and repeatedly called Venezuelan
15 immigrants “animals.” For instance, in 2024 he asserted that, “[e]very day, Americans . . . are
16 living in fear all because [former Vice President] Kamala Harris decided to empty the slums and
17 prison cells of Caracas [Venezuela] and many other places And we have to live with these
18
19

20 ¹⁶⁰ Liz Robbins, *Why Was MS-13 Targeted in Trump’s Speech?*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 31, 2018),
21 <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/31/nyregion/ms-13-gang-trump.html>.

22 ¹⁶¹ Michael D. Shear & Julie Hirschfeld Davis, *Stoking Fears, Trump Defied Bureaucracy to*
23 *Advance Immigration Agenda*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 23, 2017),
24 <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/23/us/politics/trump-immigration.html>.

25 ¹⁶² Dkt. 37-13 at 23.

26 ¹⁶³ See ¶ 133, *supra*.

27 ¹⁶⁴ *Id.* at approx. 19:10.

28 ¹⁶⁵ See also CBS NEWS, *Simulcast – ABC News Presidential Debate*, C-SPAN (Sept. 10, 2024) at
approx. 33:40, <https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/simulcast-abc-news-presidential-debate/648383> (“They allowed people to come in, drug dealers, to come into our country, and
they’re now in the United States. And told by their countries like Venezuela don’t ever come back
or we’re going to kill you. . . . There’s never been anything done like this at all. They’ve destroyed
the fabric of our country. Millions of people let in.”).

1 animals, but we're not going to live with them for long, you watch.”¹⁶⁶ He also stated that he was
2 “talking a lot about Venezuela because Aurora [Colorado] is really infected by Venezuela.”¹⁶⁷
3 Local officials rejected these assertions.¹⁶⁸ One analysis by Axios of 109 of President Trump’s
4 speeches, debates, and interviews found that he called Venezuelan migrants “criminals” at least
5 seventy times between September 1, 2023 to October 2, 2024.¹⁶⁹

6 151. In March 2025, the Trump administration dramatically escalated its rhetoric and
7 actions against Venezuelans, relying on purported TdA membership as justification for deporting
8 more than 200 Venezuelans to a Salvadoran terrorist detention center, in apparent violation of a
9 court order.¹⁷⁰ The administration cited the Alien Enemies Act—a 1798 law that facilitates
10 deportation during wartime—despite the lack of armed conflict between Venezuela and the United
11 States. In a March 15, 2025 “Proclamation”—“Invocation of the Alien Enemies Act Regarding the
12 Invasion of the United States by Tren de Aragua”—President Trump asserted that TdA members
13 “are conducting irregular warfare and undertaking hostile actions against the United States” and
14 proclaimed them “Alien Enemies” subject to immediate and summary apprehension, detention and
15

16 ¹⁶⁶ Dkt. 37-9 at 32–33; Fox News, *Donald Trump Delivers Remarks at Rally in Reading, PA*,
17 YOUTUBE (Oct. 9, 2024) at approx. 29:55, 30:07,
18 <https://www.youtube.com/live/QuoT6T3fbU0?t=1791s> (similar).

19 ¹⁶⁷ Dkt. 37-9 at 34.

20 ¹⁶⁸ See ¶ 131, *supra*; Jonathan Weisman, *How the False Story of a Gang ‘Takeover’ in Colorado*
21 *Reached Trump*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 15, 2024),
22 <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/15/us/politics/trump-aurora-colorado-immigration.html>
(quoting the Republican mayor of Aurora, Colorado, along with a Republican City Council
23 member, decrying gang takeover narrative as “simply not true”).

24 ¹⁶⁹ Russell Contreras, Delano Massey, & Erin Davis, *Trump keeps calling Venezuelan and*
25 *Congolese migrants criminals*, AXIOS (Oct. 5, 2024), [https://www.axios.com/2024/10/05/trump-](https://www.axios.com/2024/10/05/trump-migrants-venezuelan-congolese-rhetoric)
26 [migrants-venezuelan-congolese-rhetoric](https://www.axios.com/2024/10/05/trump-migrants-venezuelan-congolese-rhetoric).

27 ¹⁷⁰ *President Trump Delivers Justice to Terrorists, Security for Americans*, THE WHITE HOUSE
28 (Mar. 17, 2025), [https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/03/president-trump-delivers-justice-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/03/president-trump-delivers-justice-for-terrorists-security-for-americans/#:~:text=America%20First%20Legal%3A%20%E2%80%9CPresident%20Trump,the%20country's%20maximum%2Dsecurity%20prison)
for-terrorists-security-for-
americans/#:~:text=America%20First%20Legal%3A%20%E2%80%9CPresident%20Trump,the%
20country's%20maximum%2Dsecurity%20prison (“America First Legal: ‘President Trump has
deported 238 criminals in the violent Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua to El Salvador to be
imprisoned in CECOT, the country’s maximum-security prison.”); Trump Administration
Deports Hundreds of Immigrants Even as a Judge Orders their Removals Be Stopped, A.P. (Mar.
17, 2025), [https://apnews.com/article/trump-venezuela-el-salvador-immigration-](https://apnews.com/article/trump-venezuela-el-salvador-immigration-dd4f61999f85c4dd8bcaba7d4fc7c9af)
dd4f61999f85c4dd8bcaba7d4fc7c9af.

1 removal if they are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.¹⁷¹ President Trump applauded
2 the deportations on social media, using dehumanizing language. He posted a video of deported
3 Venezuelans being roughly hustled off a plane in El Salvador in the dark of night, bent over, amid
4 a massive security presence, describing the Venezuelans as “monsters.”¹⁷²

5 152. President Trump has a long history of making false statements associating
6 Venezuelan refugees with criminality. He has falsely stated that Venezuelan “prisons are . . . at the
7 lowest point in terms of emptiness that they’ve ever been[]” because Venezuela was “taking their
8 people out of those prisons by the thousands” and sending them to the United States.¹⁷³

9 153. President Trump has also made disparaging remarks about Latin American countries
10 and people, frequently relying on crude and derogatory stereotypes to stoke fear about
11 immigration.

12 154. President Trump has also repeatedly “retweeted” avowed white nationalists, such as
13 @WhiteGenocideTM, as well as publicly dined with prominent, self-declared white supremacists,
14 thereby endorsing their racist views and amplifying their racist message.¹⁷⁴

15 155. The Trump Administration has not shown similar opposition to immigrant
16 populations perceived as white. On the contrary, on February 7, 2025 President Trump signed
17 Executive Order No. 14204, *Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa*, which
18 directs Secretary Noem (among others) to:

21 ¹⁷¹ Donald J. Trump, Proclamation: Invocation of the Alien Enemies Act Regarding the Invasion
22 of the United States by Tren de Aragua, Mar. 15, 2025, [https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/invocation-of-the-alien-enemies-act-regarding-the-invasion-of-the-united-states-by-tren-de-aragua/)
23 [actions/2025/03/invocation-of-the-alien-enemies-act-regarding-the-invasion-of-the-united-states-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/invocation-of-the-alien-enemies-act-regarding-the-invasion-of-the-united-states-by-tren-de-aragua/)
24 [by-tren-de-aragua/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/invocation-of-the-alien-enemies-act-regarding-the-invasion-of-the-united-states-by-tren-de-aragua/).

25 ¹⁷² @realDonaldTrump, TRUTH SOCIAL (Mar. 16, 2025),
26 <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114173862724361939>.

27 ¹⁷³ Dkt. 37-12 at 11 (December 2024 interview).

28 ¹⁷⁴ Benjy Sarlin, *Donald Trump Retweets Apparent Neo-Nazi Supporter*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 22,
2016), [https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/donald-trump-tweets-apparent-neo-nazi-](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/donald-trump-tweets-apparent-neo-nazi-supporter-n502136)
supporter-n502136; Eric Lichtblau, *Trump amplifies racist lies, giving neo-Nazis ‘real power.’*
Where are GOP leaders? USA TODAY (Sep. 23, 2024),
[https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2024/09/23/trump-far-right-haitian-immigrants-](https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2024/09/23/trump-far-right-haitian-immigrants-springfield/75301951007/)
springfield/75301951007/.

1 [T]ake appropriate steps, consistent with law, to prioritize
2 humanitarian relief, including admission and resettlement through the
3 United States Refugee Admissions Program, for Afrikaners in South
4 Africa who are victims of unjust racial discrimination.

5 156. The White House referred to Afrikaner activists who lobbied for the Trump
6 Administration's support as "civil rights leaders."¹⁷⁵ Trump's Executive Order to protect white
7 South Africans yet again makes clear that his administration strongly prefers white immigrants
8 over those perceived as non-white.

9 157. Together, all of President Trump's repeated statements denigrating immigrants
10 perceived to be non-white, and targeting Venezuelans, Haitians, and TPS holders in particular,
11 have not functioned merely as hateful rhetoric. They have also worked as a call to action for those
12 serving him.

13 **Statements of Trump Surrogates**

14 158. Like President Trump, prominent officials who exerted influence to ensure that
15 DHS's decision-making process on TPS favored termination also harbor racial animus against
16 immigrants perceived as non-white in general and Venezuelans and Haitians in particular. These
17 officials have been motivated by their racial animosity to intervene in and influence the TPS
18 decision-making process towards termination.

19 159. For example, Vice President Vance has repeatedly amplified unfounded rumors
20 about Haitian immigrants eating pets. Despite the lack of corroborating evidence, he declared that
21 if he "ha[s] to create stories" about Haitian migrants "so that the American media actually pays
22 attention to the suffering of the American people, then that's what I'm going to do."¹⁷⁶
23

24 ¹⁷⁵ John Eligon, *Trump Tries to Use White South Africans as Cautionary Tale*, NY TIMES (March
25 15, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/15/world/africa/south-africa-whites-trump.html>.

26 ¹⁷⁶ Kit Maher & Chris Boyette, *JD Vance Defends Baseless Rumor About Haitian Immigrants*
27 *Eating Pets*, CNN (Sept. 15, 2024), [https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/15/politics/vance-immigrants-](https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/15/politics/vance-immigrants-pets-springfield-ohio-cnntv/index.html)
28 *Slurs about 'Cat-Eating Migrants' in Ohio City*, THE GUARDIAN (Sept. 9, 2024),
[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/09/republicans-haitian-migrants-pets-](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/09/republicans-haitian-migrants-pets-wildlife-ohio)
[wildlife-ohio](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/09/republicans-haitian-migrants-pets-wildlife-ohio).

1 160. Additionally, Vice President Vance disparaged Haitian TPS holders with
2 longstanding stereotypes¹⁷⁷ of immigrants as dangerous criminals and spreaders of disease. He
3 accused Haitians in Springfield of triggering “a massive rise in communicable diseases, rent
4 prices, car insurance rates, and crime,” stating “[t]his is what happens when you drop 20,000
5 people into a small community.”¹⁷⁸ He specifically stated that Haitians caused “TB and HIV” to
6 be “on the rise.”¹⁷⁹

7 161. Stephen Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, has long expressed support
8 for White Nationalism, “promoted white nationalist literature,” and “pushed racist immigration
9 stories” to the media.¹⁸⁰ Miller lauded historical immigration laws that imposed quotas based on
10 racist assumptions.¹⁸¹ For years, Miller promoted the ideas that non-white immigrants were
11 uniquely violent and targeted Americans with that violence.¹⁸²

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16 ¹⁷⁷ Dkt. 22 ¶¶ 20, 22, 23, 25 (expert declaration of Professor Elliott Young tracing the historical
use of these tropes).

17 ¹⁷⁸ J.D. Vance (@JDVance), X (Sept. 13, 2024),
18 <https://x.com/jdvance/status/1834584115825226087?s=46>; see also WCNC, *JD Vance Has*
19 *Heated Exchange Over Claims Migrants Are Eating Pets in Ohio*, YOUTUBE (Sept. 11, 2024),
20 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqjLoSNkyDs> (“That small migrant community has caused a
lot of problems. It’s led to higher rates of communicable diseases, that’s a verifiable fact. It’s led
to animals disappearing, many of my constituents have said that has been happening.”).

21 ¹⁷⁹ J.D. Vance (@JDVance), X (Sept. 10, 2024),
22 <https://x.com/jdvance/status/1833505359513661762?s=46>.

23 ¹⁸⁰ Michael Edison Hayden, *Stephen Miller’s Affinity for White Nationalism Revealed in Leaked*
24 *Emails*, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER (Nov. 12, 2019),
25 [https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2019/11/12/stephen-millers-affinity-white-nationalism-](https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2019/11/12/stephen-millers-affinity-white-nationalism-revealed-leaked-emails)
26 [revealed-leaked-emails](https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2019/11/12/stephen-millers-affinity-white-nationalism-revealed-leaked-emails).

27 ¹⁸¹ Adam Serwer, *Trump’s White-Nationalist Vanguard*, THE ATLANTIC (Nov. 19, 2019),
28 <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/11/stephen-miller-alarming-emails/602242/> (“A
cache of Miller’s emails . . . show Miller praising racist immigration restrictions from a century
ago, while bitterly lamenting the law that repealed them.”).

¹⁸² Nicole Narea, *Stephen Miller sought to link immigrants to crime and terrorism in private*
emails to Breitbart, VOX (Nov. 25, 2019), [https://www.vox.com/policy-and-](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/11/12/20961458/stephen-miller-white-supremacist-anti-immigrant-emails-breitbart-southern-poverty-law-center)
[politics/2019/11/12/20961458/stephen-miller-white-supremacist-anti-immigrant-emails-breitbart-](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/11/12/20961458/stephen-miller-white-supremacist-anti-immigrant-emails-breitbart-southern-poverty-law-center)
[southern-poverty-law-center](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/11/12/20961458/stephen-miller-white-supremacist-anti-immigrant-emails-breitbart-southern-poverty-law-center).

1 162. Miller has been described as an “early architect[] of the Trump administration’s
2 immigration policies,” and has prioritized curtailing both legal and illegal immigration.¹⁸³ When
3 he was the senior advisor to the President during Trump’s first term in office, Miller repeatedly
4 called DHS officials to urge termination of TPS.¹⁸⁴

5 163. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who was purportedly consulted in Secretary
6 Noem’s review of the Venezuela and Haiti TPS designations, has demonstrated how Trump
7 surrogates respond to his call to action. In 2022, when he was Senator, Rubio *advocated* for the
8 extension of TPS for Venezuela, calling it “absolutely essential” to avoid a “very real death
9 sentence for countless Venezuelans who have fled their country.”¹⁸⁵ He even co-sponsored
10 legislation to redesignate TPS for Venezuela.¹⁸⁶ However, more recently, Secretary Rubio
11 embraced President Trump’s racist talking points about Venezuela, espousing in 2024 the
12 “exaggerate[ed]” depiction of Tren de Aragua as “an invading criminal army from a prison in
13 Venezuela that has spread their brutality and chaos to U.S. cities and small towns.”¹⁸⁷

14 **The Trump Administration’s Previous Racist Attempts to End TPS**

15 164. This is not the first time that an administration guided by President Trump has
16 embarked on an unlawful campaign to destroy TPS in violation of the APA and Equal Protection
17 Clause.

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19 ¹⁸³ THE CHARLIE KIRK SHOW, *Sweeping Raids, Mass Deportations: Donald Trump’s 2025 Plan to*
20 *Fix the Border* (Nov. 14, 2023), [https://thecharliekirkshow.com/podcasts/the-charlie-kirk-](https://thecharliekirkshow.com/podcasts/the-charlie-kirk-show/sweeping-raids-mass-deportations-donald-trumps-2025)
21 [show/sweeping-raids-mass-deportations-donald-trumps-2025](https://thecharliekirkshow.com/podcasts/the-charlie-kirk-show/sweeping-raids-mass-deportations-donald-trumps-2025); *see also* Lauren Villgran, *Who is*
22 *Stephen Miller, architect of Donald Trump’s mass deportation plans?*, USA TODAY (Nov. 25,
23 *2024), [https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/11/21/stephen-miller-](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/11/21/stephen-miller-trumps-mass-deportation-architect/76260908007/)*
trumps-mass-deportation-architect/76260908007/; Elliot Spagat, *Trump picks a pair of*
experienced advisers motivated to carry out his immigration crackdown, ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEWS (Nov. 12, 2024), [https://apnews.com/article/immigration-deportation-homan-miller-trump-](https://apnews.com/article/immigration-deportation-homan-miller-trump-border-abb1a75497d11c978c369cb20016eeeb)
[border-abb1a75497d11c978c369cb20016eeeb](https://apnews.com/article/immigration-deportation-homan-miller-trump-border-abb1a75497d11c978c369cb20016eeeb).

24 ¹⁸⁴ *See Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d. at 1098.

25 ¹⁸⁵ Senators Marco Rubio & Robert Menendez, *Letter to Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas* (Mar. 31,
26 2022), [https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/menendez-rubio-letter-to-dhs-re-venezuela-](https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/menendez-rubio-letter-to-dhs-re-venezuela-tps-april12022.pdf)
[tps-april12022.pdf](https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/menendez-rubio-letter-to-dhs-re-venezuela-tps-april12022.pdf).

27 ¹⁸⁶ *See* Venezuela Temporary Protected Status Act of 2021, S. 50, 117th Cong. (2021-2022).

28 ¹⁸⁷ Charles Larratt-Smith & John Polga-Hecimovich, *How Much of a Threat is Tren de Aragua in the U.S.?*, AMERICAS QUARTERLY (Dec. 9, 2024), [https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-](https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/)
[of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/](https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/).

1 165. During President Trump’s first term, every federal district court to consider the
2 question found “evidence that President Trump harbors an animus against non-white, non-
3 European aliens which influenced his (and thereby the Secretary’s) decision to end the TPS
4 designation[s]” for El Salvador, Haiti, Sudan, and Nicaragua in 2017 and 2018.¹⁸⁸

5 166. The evidence adduced in those cases further illustrates that the conduct challenged
6 here is part of a premeditated effort to terminate TPS without regard to applicable law or
7 standards, and to further a racist agenda.¹⁸⁹

8 167. Political appointees during the first Trump administration also sought to paint TPS
9 holders as criminals and to manufacture evidence to support this impossible claim—to justify the
10 termination of designations, and the undermining of the TPS program. A federal district court
11 found that Acting Secretary Duke decided to terminate TPS for Haiti for the sake of “agenda
12 adherence” to the “America first” platform, without regard to her consideration of country
13 conditions under the TPS statute.¹⁹⁰ Acting Secretary Duke specifically sought out a rationale to
14 “separate” out Haiti.¹⁹¹ Additionally, subordinates of then-DHS Secretary John Kelly covertly
15 sought data on the number of Haitian TPS holders who committed crimes and relied on public
16 assistance, despite the fact that virtually any criminal record is disqualifying for TPS.¹⁹² Secretary
17

18 ¹⁸⁸ *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1100; *see also Centro Presente*, 332 F. Supp. 3d at 415 (“find[ing]
19 that the combination of a disparate impact on particular racial groups, statements of animus by
20 people plausibly alleged to be involved in the decision-making process, and an allegedly
21 unreasoned shift in policy sufficient to allege plausibly that a discriminatory purpose was a
22 motivating factor in a decision” to terminate TPS for Haiti, El Salvador and Honduras); *Saget*, 375
23 F. Supp. 3d at 372 (finding that “evidence of White House . . . animus toward non-white
24 immigrants, including Haitians specifically, raises at the very least serious questions going to the
25 merits of Plaintiffs’ equal protection claim” challenging the termination of TPS for Haiti).

26 ¹⁸⁹ *See, e.g., Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1101, 1104 (describing how, *i.e.*, “[t]he record evidence
27 indicates that, after receiving Decision Memos from career DHS employees, higher-level DHS
28 employees – *i.e.*, the political appointees – were ‘repackaging’ the memos in order to get to the
President/White House’s desired result of terminating TPS”; and how “Acting Secretary Duke
expressly acknowledged that the terminations of TPS designations were ‘a strong break with past
practice,’ . . . – designed to fit the President’s objectives on immigration which would put
‘America first.’”); *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 322.

¹⁹⁰ *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 343, 347–48, 359–62.

¹⁹¹ *Id.*

¹⁹² *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1104–05; *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 307–09.

1 Kelly and other DHS and USCIS personnel tried to use these data to demonstrate that extending
2 TPS to Haitians would not be in the “national interest.”¹⁹³ A federal district court found that “[t]he
3 information sought by the Secretary [Kelly] coincides with racial stereotypes – *i.e.*, that non-
4 whites commit crimes and are on the public dole.”¹⁹⁴

5 168. During President Trump’s first term in office, the pressure from President Trump
6 and the White House on the DHS Secretary’s TPS decision-making was less evident and public
7 than here. The federal district court nonetheless found that “Acting Secretary Duke’s writings
8 suggest that she, in her role at DHS, was largely carrying out or conforming with a predetermined
9 presidential agenda to end TPS.”¹⁹⁵ There, Acting Secretary Duke, in separate personal writings,
10 expressed that her TPS decision-making was based on “an America first view,” a term that
11 invoked then-President Trump’s racist views preferring immigration from majority-white
12 European countries.¹⁹⁶ Here, by contrast, Secretary Noem has included President Trump’s
13 “America First” objectives expressly in the published Federal Register notice terminating TPS.

14 **THE TERMINATION OF TPS STATUS WOULD IMPOSE**
15 **EXTRAORDINARY AND IRREPARABLE HARM ON TPS HOLDERS, THEIR**
16 **FAMILIES, AND THEIR COMMUNITIES**

17 169. More than 1.1 million TPS holders will lose the TPS status they were scheduled to
18 have as a result of Defendants’ vacatur. More than 350,000 Venezuelan TPS holders stand to lose
19 their employment authorization as soon as April 2, 2025 and their legal status on April 7, 2025 as
20 a result of the termination of the 2023 Venezuela Designation. The remainder have seen the status
21 granted them under lawful decisions of the previous administration cut short. When their countries
22 come up for review next—no later than June 2025 for 500,000 Haitians and July 2025 for the
23 remaining 250,000 Venezuelans—Secretary Noem will likely terminate their status without regard
24

25 ¹⁹³ 8 U.S.C. §§ 1254a(c)(2)(B), *Id.* § 1254a(b)(1)(C); *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 353.

26 ¹⁹⁴ *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1105.

27 ¹⁹⁵ *Id.* at 1099.

28 ¹⁹⁶ *Id.* at 1099–1100, 1104; Brief of Amici Curiae, The Anti-Defamation League, *et al.*, *Ramos v. Nielsen*, Case No. 18-16981, ECF No. 31 at 21 (9th Cir. Feb. 7, 2019).

1 to the country conditions, contrary to statute. The scale of the harm wrought by Defendants'
2 actions to eliminate TPS protection for Venezuelans and Haitians will be massive if not reversed.

3 **Loss of Legal Status, Employment Authorization, and Drivers Licenses**

4 170. TPS holders are facing the imminent loss of legal status, and as a result, are already
5 being forced to make the impossible choice whether to return to a country in crisis, remain in the
6 United States without lawful immigration status, or uproot themselves again to try to find refuge
7 in some third country. For most, this is hardly a choice at all. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders
8 cannot safely return to their countries of origin.¹⁹⁷

9 171. Moreover, due to the lack of diplomatic relations between the United States and
10 Venezuela, Venezuelan TPS holders without valid passports lack the requisite documentation to
11 travel voluntarily to Venezuela or a third country.¹⁹⁸

12 172. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has a flight ban to Haiti, and numerous
13 airlines have indefinitely suspended flights to Haiti, in light of security risks from armed gangs
14 and planes being hit by gunfire while attempting to land.¹⁹⁹

15 173. Without TPS, many Venezuelans and Haitians will be at immediate risk of
16 deportation to unsafe countries. Venezuela has experienced an exodus of one-fourth of its
17 population in the past decade. Thousands of refugees have also fled Haiti, as it suffers from
18
19

20 ¹⁹⁷ Both Venezuela and Haiti have the highest level “Do Not Travel” advisories from the U.S.
21 government due to serious security risks, instability, and lack of health care infrastructure. *See*,
22 *e.g.*, *Venezuela*, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS (Sep. 24, 2024),
[https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Venezuela.html)
23 [Information-Pages/Venezuela.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Venezuela.html); *Haiti*, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF CONSULAR
24 [AFFAIRS \(Sep. 18, 2024\),](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html)
[https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html)
25 [advisory.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html).

26 ¹⁹⁸ *A Painful Passport Paradox Is Trapping Venezuelans Living Abroad*, BLOOMBERG, Oct. 14,
27 2024, [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-10-14/venezuela-election-fallout-traps-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-10-14/venezuela-election-fallout-traps-migrants-in-passport-limbo)
28 [migrants-in-passport-limbo](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-10-14/venezuela-election-fallout-traps-migrants-in-passport-limbo).

¹⁹⁹ *FAA Extends US Flight Ban to Haiti’s Capital Through Summer 2025*, THE HAITIAN TIMES,
Mar. 12, 2025, [https://haitiantimes.com/2025/03/12/faa-extends-u-s-flight-ban-to-haitis-capital-](https://haitiantimes.com/2025/03/12/faa-extends-u-s-flight-ban-to-haitis-capital-through-summer-2025/)
through-summer-2025/, Tania Francois, *FAA Prohibits Flights to Haiti for 30 Days After 3 Jets*
Hit By Gunfire, CBS NEWS, Nov. 13, 2024, [https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/airlines-](https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/airlines-cancel-flights-to-haiti-after-two-planes-were-hit-by-gunfire/)
[cancel-flights-to-haiti-after-two-planes-were-hit-by-gunfire/](https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/airlines-cancel-flights-to-haiti-after-two-planes-were-hit-by-gunfire/).

1 political chaos, severe gang violence, systemic human rights violations, and widespread
2 deprivation of basic healthcare, clean drinking water, and food supplies.

3 174. Some Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders may currently be seeking other legal
4 avenues to remain in this country (such as asylum or adjustment of status). However, due to the
5 yearslong asylum backlog, affirmative asylum applications remain long-pending, and do not
6 guarantee an individual protection from either detention or deportation in the interim. Defendants'
7 actions also threaten detention and deportation for TPS holders who do not presently have
8 alternative paths to legal status, even though TPS was established expressly to serve this
9 population—individuals who cannot safely return but may not fit the specific legal requirements
10 of asylum. The loss of TPS in some instances also limits the possibility of acquiring a permanent
11 legal status for which an individual would otherwise be eligible, but for which present legal status
12 is a prerequisite.²⁰⁰ TPS holders who lose their status may also face a years-long statutory bar to
13 re-entry whether they depart on their own or are deported.²⁰¹

14 175. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders also face the prospect of losing employment
15 authorization. This may result in their summary dismissal from their place of work, jeopardizing
16 their and their families' financial stability. Without stable employment, some TPS holders risk
17 losing their homes or other material assets, leading to further economic harm. Many Venezuelan
18 and Haitian TPS holders also face the imminent loss of their drivers' licenses and, with them, their
19 mobility and freedom of movement, because in many states drivers' licenses are limited to those
20 with legal status.²⁰² Moreover, because the Secretary's termination decision goes into effect so
21 quickly, Venezuelan TPS holders have been afforded almost no time to make alternative
22
23

24 ²⁰⁰ See Temporary Protected Status: An Overview, AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL (Jan. 2025),
25 [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/temporary_protected_stat
us_-_an_overview_1-16-2025.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/temporary_protected_status_-_an_overview_1-16-2025.pdf) (noting some TPS recipients may be eligible to adjust status).

26 ²⁰¹ 8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(A)(ii), (B)(i)(II).

27 ²⁰² See, e.g., California DMV, REAL ID Checklist, [https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-
licenses-identification-cards/real-id/real-id-checklist/](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/real-id/real-id-checklist/) (listing documents showing immigration
28 status as requirements for REAL ID driver's licenses).

1 arrangements for themselves and their families, including by applying for other forms of
2 immigration relief, employment authorization, or drivers' licenses for which they are eligible.

3 **Other Harms to TPS Holders: Family Separation, Psychological Harm, and Stigma**

4 176. The loss of legal status renders TPS holders vulnerable to separation from U.S.
5 citizen children and other loved ones. There are many Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders in
6 mixed-status families—with children, spouses, partners, elderly parents, and other family
7 members who are U.S. citizens or Green Card holders. These TPS holders face the risk of being
8 forced to leave their family members behind, or bringing their U.S. citizen children (or other
9 family members) to a country in economic and political ruin, where severe repression is pervasive.

10 177. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders have been experiencing tremendous emotional
11 and psychological harm since the challenged decisions. This has resulted in heightened anxiety,
12 trauma, insomnia, and depression, in some cases severe enough to result in acts of self-harm. The
13 psychological harms resulting from Defendants' actions will only increase as the effective date
14 approaches.

15 178. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders have also suffered the additional constitutional
16 harm of being subject to an administrative action motivated by racial, ethnic, or national-origin
17 discrimination. Many describe the emotional pain of being subjected to racist attacks by high-
18 ranking U.S. government officials. Some also live in fear of leaving the house, speaking their
19 native language, or disclosing their nationality due to the racist targeting of Venezuelans, Haitians,
20 and other non-white migrants.

21 **Harm to Plaintiffs**

22 179. **Plaintiff National TPS Alliance** has over 130,000 Venezuelan and Haitian TPS
23 holder members. These members are anxious and desperate. Many are making plans to sell homes
24 and cars, end leases, and collect their belongings in preparation to leave the country, if needed.
25 But they do not believe they can safely return to Venezuela or Haiti because they remain
26 politically unstable, unsafe, and repressive, and because the economies of these countries are in
27 total collapse. If the United States will not allow them to stay, they do not know where they will
28 go or what they will do. Among them:

1 a) NTPSA member **A.V.** has TPS under Venezuela’s 2023 designation. He lives in
2 Alabama and works full-time on the night shift at an auto parts manufacturer. As the 2024
3 presidential election drew near, A.V. began struggling with severe anxiety and fears that he would
4 lose his TPS status. News reports about President Trump’s plans to deport all immigrants
5 awakened a deep sense of dread in him, as he is terrified to return to Venezuela. As a result of
6 Defendants’ actions, in April 2025 he faces the loss of his job, driver’s license, and legal right to
7 remain in the United States. His uncle, uncle’s wife, and their three-year old son all rely on TPS.
8 Another cousin relies on TPS, and lives with her two U.S. citizen children.

9 b) NTPSA member **M.R.** has TPS under Venezuela’s 2021 designation. She lives in
10 West Virginia and works two jobs—full-time in the health care sector and part-time at
11 McDonald’s. She is the sole provider for her two minor children and elderly mother. As a result of
12 Defendants’ actions, in September 2025 M.R. faces the loss of her legal status, work
13 authorization, and driver’s license, as well as health care for her chronically ill daughter and
14 mother. Her twelve-year-old daughter and elderly mother also rely on TPS for their legal status;
15 her five-year-old daughter is a U.S. citizen and faces the prospect of being separated from her
16 family if their TPS is terminated.

17 c) NTPSA member **Laura Guerrero** has TPS under Venezuela’s 2021 designation.
18 She has been waiting over nine years with a pending asylum application. She fears being in
19 limbo—with limited access to employment, without legal status, and at risk of deportation—if her
20 TPS is terminated. Her elder daughter, a TPS holder, is currently in her first year as an
21 undergraduate at a prestigious music school, but stands to lose the full scholarship that TPS
22 affords her. Laura has suffered panic attacks since the vacatur announcement.

23 d) NTPSA member **C.D.**, a 60-year-old father of three, holds TPS under Venezuela’s
24 2021 designation. He lives in Houston, Texas with his wife, where they own their home. They
25 have consistently paid their taxes. C.D. works for a temporary staffing agency and was recently
26 diagnosed with prostate cancer. If, due to Defendants’ actions, he loses his TPS in September
27 2025, he will lose his job and be unable to pay for his mortgage and health care, which would be
28 economically devastating for him and his wife. Losing TPS would also expose C.D. to the risk of

1 being deported from the United States, which would inflict many harms, including preventing him
2 from accessing the medical care he needs to treat his cancer.

3 e) NTPSA member **Stanley Louis** holds TPS under Haiti's 2023 designation. Stanley
4 became an orphan at the age of seven. He is now 40 years old and lives in Seattle, Washington
5 where he studies International Business and Trade at a local college. Stanley applied to extend his
6 TPS pursuant to the July 2024 extension and received TPS related documentation confirming his
7 legal status and work authorization through February 3, 2026. However, the partial vacatur
8 purports to move up the expiration date for his work authorization and lawful status to August 3,
9 2025. Stanley recently interviewed for a security position at the airport but can no longer accept
10 the job because it requires employment authorization valid for at least six months, which Stanley
11 can no longer show. Stanley is afraid that Secretary Noem will terminate TPS for Haiti, as she did
12 with Venezuela, regardless of conditions in Haiti that make it impossible for Stanley to safely
13 return. TPS is Stanley's only source of work authorization and protection against deportation.

14 f) **D.F.** is 28 years old, a member of NTPSA, and lives in the Northeast. Born in Haiti,
15 she has resided in the United States since the age of nine and has had TPS since 2010. Her mother,
16 father, sister, and several other relatives also rely on TPS. She has one younger brother who is a
17 U.S. citizen. D.F. holds a Bachelor's degree in health science and a Master's degree in healthcare
18 administration. She worked full time to put herself through undergraduate and graduate school,
19 and now works as a program manager for a mobile healthcare unit, providing medical and dental
20 care to underserved populations in the state she now calls home. TPS is what has allowed D.F. to
21 work, obtain an advanced degree, and pursue a meaningful and impactful career in community
22 healthcare. She has no other form of protection or relief from deportation. If she loses her TPS
23 status, D.F.'s career will be irreparably harmed as she will be unable to continue working. She will
24 be left without a means to support herself, and many of her family members will be in similarly
25 desperate circumstances. At the same time, D.F. feels it is impossible for her to return to Haiti,
26 where the current government, unable to protect the people who live there, is obviously incapable
27 of safely receiving the hundreds of thousands of Haitians who have been residing in the United
28 States under TPS.

1 g) **J.P.L.** is a 24-year-old Haitian TPS holder and NTPSA member who resides in
2 Florida. She speaks four languages, is employed as a paralegal, and hopes to someday become an
3 attorney. TPS is her only protection from deportation. She has several family members in the
4 United States, including her grandparents who are U.S. citizens. Her husband is also a TPS holder.
5 If TPS for Haiti is terminated in August, J.P.L. will no longer be able to work to support herself in
6 the United States and will be left with no legal status. However, J.P.L. cannot safely return to
7 Haiti. There, she experienced violence and threats and the police refused to protect her. Since the
8 decision to shorten the timeframe of TPS for Haiti was announced, J.P.L. has been experiencing
9 constant fear and anxiety, making it hard to focus on her work, education, and even her personal
10 well-being.

11 h) **B.P.** is a Haitian TPS holder and member of the NTPSA. He has lived in the
12 Northeast since 2021 with his family. He sought asylum at the border with his wife and son and
13 has a pending asylum application with USCIS. B.P. and his wife received TPS in 2023 and
14 extended their TPS in 2024. Their son is enrolled in elementary school, where he has quickly
15 learned English and made friends. Their family welcomed a daughter in 2023. Now 15 months
16 old, B.P.'s daughter is a U.S. citizen. B.P. was working at a gas station until he became sick. He is
17 currently receiving medical treatment for a neurological issue—treatment he believes would be
18 impossible to access in Haiti. His wife is a home health aide, providing vital care to seniors. If
19 B.P. and his wife lose their TPS, they would be vulnerable to detention and deportation
20 proceedings, risking family separation. B.P. and his wife cannot go back to Haiti, a country their
21 children do not know and where they believe their lives would be in danger. B.P. struggles to
22 sleep at night thinking about what his family will do if they lose TPS.

23 i) **Esther** (a pseudonym) is a Haitian TPS holder and member of the NTPSA. She was
24 lawfully admitted to the U.S. on a tourist visa with her family before the COVID-19 pandemic.
25 Shortly after arriving, Esther's young brother got very sick and was diagnosed with multiple
26 sclerosis, a chronic disease that can be debilitating, especially without treatment, which he would
27 not be able to receive in Haiti. Then the pandemic unfolded, and travel became impossible.
28 Esther's brother relies on TPS to qualify for his health insurance, which covers his chronic care,

1 helping him manage his symptoms enough to graduate high school this year. Esther's mother
2 relies on her work authorization to support the family. Esther also relies on her work authorization
3 to support herself and save to go back to school. After taking English classes and other general
4 education requirements, Esther was accepted into a nursing program last fall. She accepted the
5 offer based on her eighteen-month TPS extension, assured she would be able to complete at least
6 the first year of the program under her current TPS status. Now she faces the uncertainty that she
7 could lose her TPS after just one semester, putting into jeopardy all of her hard work.

8 180. **Plaintiff Mariela González**, a long-time educator, has lived in the United States for
9 fourteen years and is currently employed by an urban school district. She faces termination of her
10 legal status and work authorization in September 2025 as a result of Defendants' actions. She
11 lacks a valid passport and could not legally travel even if she could safely return to Venezuela,
12 which she cannot. Moreover, all of Mariela's immediate family—her parents, siblings, and
13 nephews—reside in the United States and have permanent status.

14 181. **Plaintiff Freddy Jose Arape Rivas** fled Venezuela due to worsening conditions,
15 including rising repression and violence against opposition members, and a collapsing economy
16 where it became impossible to obtain basic necessities. He works in the IT sector in Texas. He
17 will lose his legal status, employment authorization, and driver's license in April 2025 as a result
18 of Defendants' actions. He also fears he will lose the possibility of an H-1B visa, for which he has
19 a pending application through his employer, because he has been told he will no longer be eligible
20 without lawful status.

21 182. **Plaintiff M.H.** lives in Tennessee, graduated from a Venezuelan university with a
22 nursing degree, and is currently the primary caregiver for her two children—the elder a TPS
23 holder, and the younger a U.S. citizen with severe asthma. M.H.'s husband works full-time for a
24 government subcontractor. M.H.'s two-year-old son faces an uncertain fate should TPS be
25 terminated—unable to live safely in Venezuela, particularly with a serious and chronic health
26 condition, but facing the possibility of being separated from his mother and sister following the
27 termination of their TPS in April 2025 as a result of Defendants' actions. M.H. has a mandatory
28 check-in with ICE in May 2025, the month after she is scheduled to lose her TPS.

1 183. **Plaintiff Cecilia González Herrera** came to the United States in 2017, at the age of
2 18, and has lived her entire adult life in this country. She was a student activist in Venezuela, and
3 now attends university and works as a voting rights advocate in Florida. Her mental health has
4 suffered as a result of Defendants’ actions, and she faces the loss of the ability to pay in-state
5 tuition for university, which TPS affords her. She has also abandoned the prospect of postgraduate
6 education as a result of the uncertainty created by the termination announcement. And because of
7 Defendants’ repeated statements targeting Venezuelans as “dirtbags” and gang members, she feels
8 unwanted in a country that has been her home for eight years.

9 184. **Plaintiff Alba Cecilia Purica Hernandez** is a childcare provider in San Leandro,
10 California. Her deportation proceedings were terminated on account of her TPS registration.
11 However, she risks losing her legal status and employment authorization in April 2025 as a result
12 of Defendants’ actions. She cannot safely return to Venezuela. Nor can she practically return as
13 she lacks a valid Venezuelan passport. Alba has felt sad, scared and adrift since the announcement
14 of the termination of TPS for Venezuela, and feels that the decision is reflective of a perception at
15 the highest levels of the U.S. government that Venezuelans and non-white migrants are less than
16 human.

17 185. **Plaintiff E.R.** and her twelve-year-old daughter live in New York where E.R. works
18 the night shift in a makeup packaging factory to be able to take her daughter to and from school.
19 E.R. has legal status and employment authorization only through TPS and risks losing her
20 employment on April 2, 2025 as a result of Defendants’ actions. She is the sole provider for her
21 twelve-year-old daughter, who also has TPS. As a result of an accident which required her to get
22 twenty staples in her head, E.R. requires medical care which she would not be able to get in
23 Venezuela. She and her daughter have a mandatory check-in with ICE in June 2025, two months
24 after they are scheduled to lose their TPS status.

25 186. **Plaintiff Hendrina Vivas Castillo** is a mother and former business owner who
26 works as a delivery driver in Los Angeles, California. In Venezuela, the economic crisis forced
27 her to shut down her business and she faced mounting political repression, including the arrest of
28 her business’s co-owner. As a result of Defendants’ actions, she risks losing her TPS and

1 employment authorization in April 2025. Hendrina is terrified of going back to Venezuela and
2 does not know what she will do if her TPS is terminated.

3 187. **Plaintiff A.C.A.** is a Haitian TPS holder in Florida who has lived in the United
4 States for fifteen years, including as a high school student and during his entire adult life. A.C.A.
5 has many family members in the United States. His mother and two brothers are all U.S. citizens
6 or lawful permanent residents. His U.S. citizen brother filed a visa petition for A.C.A., but due to
7 the backlog, it will be many years before he is eligible to apply for a green card. A.C.A. works in
8 healthcare administration and relies on TPS for his work authorization as well as his legal status.
9 He is currently in college studying accounting at a public university and also relies on TPS for in-
10 state tuition, covered by a full scholarship. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis recently signed a law
11 prohibiting undocumented students from paying in-state tuition at Florida colleges and
12 universities. As a result, higher education would be prohibitively expensive for A.C.A. if he were
13 to lose his TPS status because of Defendants' actions. A.C.A. is afraid to return to Haiti due to the
14 violence and instability which has not abated in the fifteen years since he left. Since the decision
15 to shorten the timeframe for TPS for Haiti was announced, he has been experiencing severe
16 anxiety and nightmares about being deported.

17 188. **Plaintiff Sherika Blanc** lives in Kentucky. She has four U.S. citizen children and is
18 married to a U.S. citizen. Sherika also has other family in the United States, including her parents,
19 who have TPS, and a brother who has applied for a green card. She is now 34 years old, and has
20 not returned to Haiti since she was eight. Sherika has had TPS or DACA since 2010. Her TPS
21 status provided her with the opportunity to work, buy a car, rent a house, and raise a family in the
22 United States. She is a certified nursing assistant and works as a medical coordinator. She also
23 owns her own nail salon. Sherika is a primary financial supporter for her daughters and depends
24 on TPS for her work authorization, in addition to her legal status. Without TPS, Sherika would not
25 be able to provide for her four U.S. citizen children. If she is unable to remain in the United States,
26 Sherika would be forced to choose between leaving her U.S. citizen children and husband behind
27 and returning to Haiti alone, or bringing her family to Haiti to live under the constant threat of
28

1 deadly gang violence while facing conditions of crippling poverty and food and housing
2 insecurity. Sherika was a plaintiff in *Ramos v. Nielsen*.

3 189. **Plaintiff Viles Dorsainvil** is a resident of Springfield, Ohio since 2021 and a TPS
4 holder from Haiti. He is the director and co-founder of the Haitian Community Help & Support
5 Center, a nonprofit founded to assist the Haitian immigrant community in Springfield. Viles holds
6 a Master of Divinity degree from The United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica
7 and served as the Executive Director of the Haitian Association of the United Nations for seven
8 years. Viles is deeply committed to advancing the well-being of immigrants and refugees,
9 particularly the Haitian community in Clark County, Ohio. In 2024, when, as candidates, Vice
10 President J.D. Vance and President Trump began spreading false accusations about the Haitian
11 immigrant community in Springfield, Viles saw and felt the harm, fear, and threats of violence
12 that followed. He felt compelled to speak out and publicly denounced the hate and racism that
13 Trump and his supporters aimed at Haitian immigrants. Viles, like many of the community
14 members served by the Haitian Community Help & Support Center, relies on TPS for work
15 authorization and protection from deportation. If TPS for Haiti is terminated, Viles will lose the
16 ability to work and live in the United States. However, he fears returning to Haiti, where
17 widespread violence makes it impossible to live and work safely.

18 190. **Plaintiff G.S.** is a Haitian-trained medical doctor who works as a housing case
19 manager for the State of Massachusetts, providing essential housing assistance to low-income
20 residents of the state. If TPS for Haiti expires in August, G.S. will lose his protection from
21 deportation and only form of legal status in the United States. However, he fears returning to
22 Haiti, having left his country due to widespread gang violence. The uncertainty of his TPS status
23 has left G.S. feeling hopeless and drained of motivation.

24 **Harm to Communities and the Public**

25 191. TPS holders are an integral part of the economic and social fabric of U.S.
26 communities, and they give back to the country in countless ways. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS
27 holders are health care providers, factory workers, engineers, agricultural workers, childcare
28 providers, educators, and students. They are active in civic life and volunteer at schools,

1 neighborhood and work organizations, and religious institutions. They pay federal, state, and local
2 taxes, and support government social welfare programs. Summarily withdrawing hundreds of
3 thousands of people from the workforce will strain the social safety net and have economic
4 repercussions on citizen and noncitizen communities alike.

5 192. Recognizing the diverse public benefits of designating countries for TPS when they
6 are in the midst of crisis, the mayors of 33 cities urged Secretary Mayorkas in 2023 to extend TPS
7 for Venezuela and other countries. Among the public benefits these local leaders emphasized were
8 adding eligible workers to the workforce, taking pressure off the social safety net by allowing
9 beneficiaries to secure work and be self-sufficient, and helping to clear the asylum backlog.²⁰³

10 193. In this litigation, 17 states and the District of Columbia (“the Amici States”)—
11 collectively home to at least 99,900 Venezuelan immigrants—filed an amicus brief in support of
12 postponing the effective date of the Venezuela vacatur pending adjudication of Plaintiffs’
13 claims.²⁰⁴ The Amici States explain that the public interest favors postponement because
14 Defendants’ actions would inflict massive harm.²⁰⁵ First, the unlawful vacatur would separate
15 families, “devastate children,” and “fracture Amici States’ communities and schools.”²⁰⁶ The
16 Amici States note that, as of 2022, “approximately 54,000 U.S. citizen children and 80,000 U.S.
17 citizen adults [throughout the United States] lived with a Venezuelan TPS holder.”²⁰⁷ Thus, over
18 “130,000 U.S. citizens lived in ‘mixed status’ households with [Venezuelan] individuals whom
19 DHS seeks to unlawfully strip of their legal status—and this figure does not account for the
20 hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who were newly eligible under the 2023 designation.”²⁰⁸
21 Deportations of TPS members would directly tear apart families, schools, and communities while
22 burdening U.S. citizen children with “financial instability, housing and food insecurity, and

23 _____
24 ²⁰³ Letter from Cities for Action Mayors to Secretaries Mayorkas and Blinken (Sept. 6, 2023),
https://www.citiesforaction.us/expand_tps_protections.

25 ²⁰⁴ Dkt. 62 at 2.

26 ²⁰⁵ *Id.* at 3.

27 ²⁰⁶ *Id.* at 4 (cleaned up).

28 ²⁰⁷ *Id.*

²⁰⁸ *Id.*

1 disruptions in their education.”²⁰⁹ Meanwhile, the fear of deportation inflicts severe psychological
2 harm on TPS holders and their loved ones. Such fear can cause members of affected
3 communities—“including those born in the United States”—to refrain from important activities
4 such as driving, attending religious services, participating in afterschool activities, and seeking
5 medical care.²¹⁰

6 194. Second, the Amici States emphasize that the unlawful Venezuela vacatur would
7 deplete their economies and workforces.²¹¹ They estimate that “[t]he annual economic
8 contribution of TPS-eligible Venezuelans is \$11.5 billion.”²¹² Moreover, they note that “TPS
9 holders from all countries [including Venezuela, Haiti, and other nations] paid \$3.1 billion in
10 federal taxes, contributing to programs like Social Security and Medicare, and paid \$2.1 billion in
11 state and local taxes.”²¹³ Unlawfully eliminating TPS designations threatens these valuable
12 contributions.

13 195. Third, the Amici States stress how Defendants’ actions would compromise public
14 health and increase health care costs.²¹⁴ They explain that eliminating hundreds of thousands of
15 TPS holders’ work authorizations “would deprive many of those individuals and their families of
16 their employer-sponsored health insurance,” thus increasing the number of people on public health
17 insurance and “increasing public expenditures on emergency care provided to uninsured
18 patients.”²¹⁵ Moreover, the aforementioned fear of deportation would harm public health by
19 discouraging former TPS holders from seeking treatment or preventative care (including
20 vaccinations).²¹⁶

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23 ²⁰⁹ *Id.* at 4–6.

24 ²¹⁰ *Id.* at 5–7.

25 ²¹¹ *Id.* at 7.

26 ²¹² *Id.*

27 ²¹³ *Id.* at 8.

28 ²¹⁴ *Id.* at 9–12.

²¹⁵ *Id.* at 9.

²¹⁶ *Id.* at 10–12.

1 196. Fourth, the Amici States highlight how Defendants’ unlawful actions and the
2 resulting fear of deportation would inflict yet another harm: undermining law enforcement.²¹⁷
3 “Fear of removal, or of having a family or community member removed, makes victims and
4 witnesses reluctant to come forward, to testify in court, and even to seek safety in a domestic
5 violence shelter.”²¹⁸ The Amici States point out that “[w]hen law enforcement is unable to obtain
6 evidence of crimes and maintain witness cooperation at trial, public safety suffers.”²¹⁹

7 197. TPS for Venezuela and Haiti is serving the exact purpose intended by Congress—
8 providing nationality-based humanitarian immigration relief due to the severe instability of these
9 countries, regardless of whether individuals meet the narrow eligibility requirements for other
10 forms of humanitarian protection, such as asylum.²²⁰

11 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

12 **FIRST CLAIM**

13 **Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (Venezuela Vacatur)**

14 **(Plaintiff NTPSA and Individual Venezuelan Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)**

15 198. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained
16 in the preceding paragraphs.

17 199. The Administrative Procedure Act²²¹ ensures that federal agencies are accountable
18 to the public by providing a “right of review” to any “person suffering legal wrong because of
19 agency action, or adversely affected or aggrieved by agency action.”²²² Judicial review is
20 generally limited to “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a
21 court.”²²³

22
23 ²¹⁷ *Id.* at 12–13.

24 ²¹⁸ *Id.* at 12.

25 ²¹⁹ *Id.*

26 ²²⁰ *See generally* Brief of Amici Curiae, Immigration Law Scholars, *Ramos v. Nielsen*, Case
No. 18-16981, ECF No. 30-2 at 2 (9th Cir Feb. 7, 2019).

27 ²²¹ 5 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*

28 ²²² 5 U.S.C. 702.

²²³ 5 U.S.C. 704.

1 200. The APA empowers the federal courts to “hold unlawful and set aside agency
2 action, findings, and conclusions” that are “arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or
3 otherwise not in accordance with law,” “in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or
4 limitations,” or “without observance of procedure required by law.”²²⁴ The right of review under
5 the APA includes a right to judicial review of “legal question[s] of statutory authority,”²²⁵ and
6 review of “executive agency action for procedural correctness.”²²⁶ To engage in procedurally
7 appropriate decision-making, an agency must ordinarily “display awareness that it *is* changing
8 position.”²²⁷ Agencies “may not . . . depart from a prior policy *sub silentio* or simply disregard
9 rules that are still on the books.”²²⁸ And the APA requires a “more detailed justification . . . for
10 disregarding facts and circumstances that underlay . . . the prior policy.”²²⁹

11 201. Defendants’ February 3, 2025 vacatur of the TPS extension for Venezuela
12 constitutes “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court,” pursuant
13 to 5 U.S.C. 704, because the Defendants’ vacatur has resulted in all of the individual Venezuelan
14 Plaintiffs and tens of thousands of members of Plaintiff NTPSA losing TPS protection until
15 October 2026, which had been granted to them pursuant to the January 17, 2025 extension,
16 “automatically and without further notice or right of appeal.”²³⁰

17 202. Defendants’ vacatur of the TPS extension decision made on January 17, 2025
18 exceeded their statutory authority and was arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual,
19 and deviated from past practice, including because, among other things:

20 a) The TPS statute carefully regulates the length of TPS extensions, the conditions
21 under which TPS may be terminated, and the timetable for doing so. Defendants had no authority
22 to annul a TPS extension under the timetable and procedures they utilized here.

23

²²⁴ 5 U.S.C. 706(2)(A), (C), (D).

24 ²²⁵ *In re Border Infrastructure Env’t Litig.*, 915 F.3d 1213, 1222 (9th Cir. 2019).

25 ²²⁶ *FCC v. Fox Television Stations, Inc.*, 556 U.S. 502, 513 (2009).

26 ²²⁷ *Id.* at 515.

27 ²²⁸ *Id.*

28 ²²⁹ *Id.* at 515–16.

²³⁰ 8 C.F.R. 244.19.

1 b) Defendants objected to the January 2025 extension for allowing 2021 TPS holders to
2 re-register under the 2023 extension, but failed to consider that 2021 TPS holders were necessarily
3 eligible for TPS under the 2023 designation as well.²³¹

4 c) Defendants' decision rested on a misinterpretation of the TPS statute's flexible
5 registration requirements and failed to "consider the alternatives that are within the ambit of the
6 existing policy" before vacating the January 17, 2025 extension in its entirety.²³²

7 d) The decision assumed that TPS designations, including the 2023 Venezuela
8 Designation, are themselves illegal.

9 e) The decision assumed that TPS holders are present in the United States illegally.

10 f) The decision presupposed that prior TPS designations or extensions can be
11 rescinded merely because of policy disagreements between administrations.

12 g) The decision occurred under circumstances and a timeline that reflect that it was
13 pretextual.²³³

14 h) To the extent Defendants engaged in any process, it was so deficient as to amount to
15 no process at all, defeating the purpose of the TPS statute and deviating from past practice and
16 rules regarding the applicable process.

17 203. Venezuelan Plaintiffs (including Venezuelan NTPSA members) will suffer
18 irreparable injury from the unlawful vacatur.

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24 ²³¹ See *San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace v. U.S. Nuclear Regul. Comm'n*, 100 F.4th 1039,
25 1055–56 (9th Cir. 2024) ("An agency action is arbitrary and capricious if . . . the agency has . . .
entirely failed to consider an important aspect of the problem.") (citation omitted).

26 ²³² *DHS v Regents of the Univ. of Cal.*, 591 U.S. 1, 30 (2020) (cleaned up, citation omitted); see
27 *Fed. Election Comm'n v. Akins*, 524 U.S. 11, 25 (1998) ("If a reviewing court agrees that the
agency misinterpreted the law, it will set aside the agency's action and remand the case[.]").

28 ²³³ Cf. *Dep't of Com. v. New York*, 588 U.S. 752, 784–85 (2019) (reversing agency action because
stated reason for decision was pretextual).

SECOND CLAIM

Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (Venezuela Termination)
(Plaintiff NTPSA and Individual Venezuelan Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)

204. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs.

205. The order terminating the 2023 TPS designation for Venezuela constitutes “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court” under 5 U.S.C. 704 because it will result in TPS holders’ loss of TPS “automatically and without further notice or right of appeal.”²³⁴

206. Defendants’ termination of the 2023 Venezuela Designation exceeded their statutory authority and was arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual, and deviated from past practice, including because:

a) The decision assumed that TPS designations, including the 2023 Venezuela Designation, are illegal.

b) The decision assumed that TPS holders are present in the United States illegally.

c) The decision relied entirely on a determination that an extension of TPS would be “contrary to the national interest,” but that factor is only relevant at the time of designation; it is not a valid consideration when assessing whether to extend or instead terminate TPS.

d) The research, consultation, and review process leading up to the decision deviated dramatically from past practice without explanation.

e) The decision occurred under circumstances and a timeline that reflect that it was pretextual.²³⁵

f) To the extent Defendants engaged in any process, it was so deficient as to amount to no process at all, defeating the purpose of the TPS statute.

²³⁴ 8 C.F.R. 244.19.

²³⁵ *Cf. Dep’t of Com.*, 588 U.S. at 784–85 (reversing agency action because stated reason for decision was pretextual).

207. Venezuelan Plaintiffs (including Venezuelan NTPSA members) will suffer irreparable injury from the unlawful termination.

THIRD CLAIM

Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (Haiti Partial Vacatur)
(Plaintiff NTPSA and Individual Haitian Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)

208. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs.

209. Defendants’ February 24, 2025 partial vacatur of the TPS extension and redesignation for Haiti constitutes “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court,” pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 704, because the Defendants’ partial vacatur has cut short the TPS protection that had been granted to all of the individual Haitian Plaintiffs and Haitian TPS holder members of Plaintiff NTPSA pursuant to the July 1, 2024 extension and redesignation, “automatically and without further notice or right of appeal.”²³⁶

210. Defendants' partial vacatur of the TPS extension and redesignation published in the July 1, 2024 notice exceeded their statutory authority and was arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual, and deviated from past practice, including because:

a) Defendants had no authority to annul a TPS extension and redesignation under the timetable and procedures they utilized here.

b) The decision assumed that TPS designations, including the 2024 Haiti redesignation, are themselves illegal.

c) The decision assumed that TPS holders are present in the United States illegally.

d) The decision presupposed that prior TPS designations or extensions can be rescinded merely because of policy disagreements between administrations.

e) The decision assumed prior TPS designations or extensions can be rescinded merely because a new administration deemed prior Federal Register notices insufficiently detailed.

²³⁶ 8 C.F.R. 244.19.

1 f) The decision assumed that the Secretary has an obligation to explain specifically
2 why the particular length of any TPS extension was chosen.

3 g) The decision rests on the erroneous legal conclusion that six months is the “default”
4 period for TPS extensions, such that any deviation from it requires separate justification.

5 h) The decision rests on the erroneous legal conclusion that Secretary Mayorkas was
6 required to consider whether extending Haiti’s TPS designation was contrary to the national
7 interest of the United States, when that factor is relevant only to a new designation, not to an
8 extension.

9 i) The decision assumed that the Secretary has an obligation to specifically explain
10 why a designation is not contrary to the national interest.

11 j) The decision occurred under circumstances and a timeline that reflect that it was
12 pretextual.²³⁷

13 k) To the extent there is any authority to vacate a TPS extension, and to the extent
14 Defendants engaged in any process for review of the prior TPS extension for Haiti, that process
15 was so deficient as to amount to no process at all, defeating the purpose of the TPS statute and
16 deviating from past practice and rules regarding the applicable process.

17 211. Haitian Plaintiffs (including Haitian NTPSA members) will suffer irreparable injury
18 from the unlawful partial vacatur.

19 **FOURTH CLAIM**

20 **Violation of the Equal Protection Guarantee of the**

21 **Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment**

22 **(All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)**

23 212. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained
24 in the preceding paragraphs.

25 213. The Fifth Amendment contains an implicit guarantee of equal protection that
26 invalidates any official action that in part reflects a racially discriminatory intent or purpose.

27 _____
28 ²³⁷ Cf. *Dep’t of Com.*, 588 U.S. at 784–85 (reversing agency action because stated reason for
decision was pretextual).

1 Classifications based on race, ethnicity, or national origin receive exacting scrutiny, and even
2 facially neutral policies and practices will be held unconstitutional when they reflect a pattern
3 unexplainable on grounds other than race.²³⁸

4 214. Defendants' decisions to vacate the January 2025 TPS extension for Venezuela,
5 terminate the 2023 Venezuela Designation, and partially vacate the July 2024 TPS extension and
6 redesignation for Haiti are unconstitutional because they were motivated, at least in part, by
7 intentional discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.

8 215. Plaintiffs (including Venezuelan and Haitian NTPSA members) will suffer
9 irreparable injury resulting from the illegal vacatur and termination of the 2023 Venezuela
10 Designation and the illegal partial vacatur of the 2024 Haiti extension and redesignation.

11 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

12 Plaintiffs ask this Court to grant the following relief:

13 1. Declare that Defendants' vacatur of the January 17, 2025 TPS extension for
14 Venezuela, purported termination of TPS for Venezuela on February 5, 2025, and partial vacatur
15 of Haiti's July 1, 2024 TPS extension and redesignation were unlawful under the APA and
16 unconstitutional under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment;

17 2. Declare that Defendants have no authority to vacate a TPS extension under 8 U.S.C.
18 1254a;

19 3. Declare that the January 17, 2025 TPS extension for Venezuela and the July 1, 2024
20 TPS extension and redesignation for Haiti remain in effect under the terms specified in those
21 decisions, 90 Fed. Reg. 5961-01 and 89 Fed. Reg. 54484-01;

22 4. "Set aside" Defendants' vacatur order of February 3, 2025, termination order of
23 February 5, 2025, and partial vacatur order of February 24, 2025 as beyond Defendants' authority
24 and/or unlawful under the APA;

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²³⁸ *Bolling v. Sharpe*, 347 U.S. 497, 499 (1954); *Vill. of Arlington Heights v. Metro. Hous. Dev. Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 265–66 (1977).

1 5. Postpone or stay the vacatur order of February 3, 2025, termination order of
2 February 5, 2025, and partial vacatur order of February 24, 2025 from taking effect or being put
3 into effect;

4 6. Enjoin and restrain all Defendants, and their officers, agents, servants, employees,
5 attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with any of them from
6 enforcing the vacatur order of February 3, 2025, termination order of February 5, 2025, and partial
7 vacatur order of February 24, 2025;

8 7. Order Defendants to take all steps necessary to ensure that Venezuela's January 17,
9 2025 TPS extension and Haiti's July 1, 2024 TPS extension and redesignation remain in full force
10 and effect;

11 8. Grant an award of attorneys' fees and costs; and

12 9. Grant any other and further relief that this Court may deem fit and proper.

13 Date: March 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

14 ACLU FOUNDATION
15 OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

16 /s/* Emilou MacLean

17 Emilou MacLean

18 Michelle (Minju) Y. Cho

19 Amanda Young (*admission pending*)

20 CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION LAW AND
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22 /s/ Ahilan T. Arulanantham

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24 Stephany Martinez Tiffer

25 ACLU FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN
26 CALIFORNIA

27 /s/ Eva L. Bitran

28 Eva L. Bitran

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NATIONAL DAY LABORER
ORGANIZING NETWORK

/s/ Jessica Karp Bansal
Jessica Karp Bansal
Lauren Michel Wilfong (pro hac vice)

HAITIAN BRIDGE ALLIANCE

/s/ Erik Crew
Erik Crew (pro hac vice pending)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

NATIONAL TPS ALLIANCE, MARIELA
GONZÁLEZ, FREDDY JOSE ARAPE
RIVAS, M.H., CECILIA DANIELA
GONZÁLEZ HERRERA, ALBA CECILIA
PURICA HERNÁNDEZ, E.R., and
HENDRINA VIVAS CASTILLO,

Plaintiffs,

v.

KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as
Secretary of Homeland Security, UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY, and UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA,

Defendants.

Case No. 25-cv-1766

COMPLAINT

Administrative Procedure Act Case

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INTRODUCTION

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2 1. This lawsuit presents a challenge to Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) Secretary Kristi Noem’s decision to deprive 600,000 Venezuelans protected by Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) of the right to live and work legally in the United States for the 18-month period lawfully authorized by her predecessor. Secretary Noem took two illegal actions within one week of assuming her role at the head of DHS. Three days after her confirmation, she “vacated” an extension of TPS protections for Venezuelans residing in the United States, just weeks after the extension was duly published in the Federal Register. Two days later, she terminated TPS for the Venezuelans who initially registered in 2023. These actions have the effect of robbing 600,000 Venezuelan TPS holders of the right to live and work in this country for the next 18 months. Approximately 350,000 Venezuelan TPS holders stand to lose this humanitarian legal status on April 7, 2025, and their work authorization as soon as April 2, 2025. Secretary Noem announced the vacatur decision in an exclusive interview she gave to Fox News, saying that “the American people . . . want these dirtbags out of the country.”

15 2. Plaintiffs in this case are the National TPS Alliance (“NTPSA”), a member-led organization representing TPS holders across the country, and individuals from Venezuela who have TPS (“Individual Plaintiffs”). These individuals cannot return safely to their country of origin. TPS allows them to live and work lawfully in the United States. They represent the diverse population of Venezuelans who have relied on TPS to provide them the most basic forms of human security—a stable place to live and a chance to work for a living during this time of severe crisis in Venezuela. They are educators, laborers, caretakers, and advocates; parents, students, and children. They live all across the country, with homes, families, jobs, and deep community ties. If Secretary Noem’s TPS termination goes into effect, they will be subject to deportation yet unable to return safely to their home country; and without legal authorization to live or work in the United States.

26 3. The Secretary’s actions are illegal for multiple reasons. At the outset, DHS has no authority to “vacate” a prior TPS extension. The TPS statute tightly regulates the conditions under which TPS decisions can be made, setting time periods and other procedural rules that must be

1 followed for both extensions and terminations. The agency does not have implicit authority to
2 accomplish the same objectives on whatever timeframe it wants, and without following the
3 requisite procedures.

4 4. Even if DHS did have such authority, the reasons provided by the Secretary to
5 vacate the extension are arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual, and inexplicably
6 deviate from past practice in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”). Contrary to
7 the claims made in the Federal Register, there was nothing unusual about the timing of the now-
8 vacated extension. Nor did it suffer from any of the other purported defects on which Secretary
9 Noem relied to justify her decision—defects which, in any event, should have been resolved by
10 alternatives short of vacatur.

11 5. Even if DHS’s vacatur order were somehow valid, the termination decision that
12 followed suffers from additional defects. Among other things, DHS’s decision to terminate TPS
13 for Venezuelans rests on the assumption that TPS is itself illegal, and that Venezuelans with TPS
14 in the United States are here illegally. This error is evident on the face of the decision. It is also
15 evident from statements made by Secretary Noem. Before she assumed leadership of DHS, she—
16 along with President Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and high-level Trump advisors—made
17 plain their position that TPS was “illegal,” that persons protected by TPS are here “illegally,” and
18 that this justified their plan to terminate TPS. But neither their disdain for TPS nor the Secretary’s
19 decision can nullify a statute.

20 6. The Secretary’s decisions also were motivated at least in part by racial animus, in
21 contravention of the Fifth Amendment. That is clear from statements the Secretary made when
22 announcing the decisions themselves, labeling Venezuelan TPS holders as “dirtbags”—an
23 expression of racism made by the official decisionmaker as part of her explanation for the
24 decision. Making matters worse, that statement is just one among a torrent of similar racist
25 statements that Secretary Noem, President Trump, and members of the Trump campaign and
26 administration have made to attack and marginalize nonwhite immigrants generally, and the
27 Venezuelan TPS community in particular.

1 7. For each of these reasons, this Court should set aside the agency's unlawful vacatur
2 and termination orders, and reinstate the prior extension.

3 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

8. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. 1331 because this action arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States. This Court has additional remedial authority under the Declaratory Judgment Act, *see* 28 U.S.C. 2201 *et seq.*, and the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 701–706. Article III and the Fifth Amendment independently grant this Court subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs’ Fifth Amendment claim.

9 9. The federal government has waived its sovereign immunity and permitted judicial
0 review of agency action under 5 U.S.C. 702. *See Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) v. United States*,
1 870 F.2d 518, 525 (9th Cir. 1989). In addition, sovereign immunity does not bar claims against
2 federal officials seeking to prevent violations of federal law (rather than monetary relief). *See*,
3 *e.g., Larson v. Domestic & Foreign Com. Corp.*, 337 U.S. 682, 697–99 & nn.18–19 (1949);
4 *Shields v. Utah Idaho Cent. R.R. Co.*, 305 U.S. 177, 183–84 (1938).

5 10. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California under 28 U.S.C. 1391(e)(1)
6 because at least one Plaintiff resides in this judicial district and each Defendant is an agency of the
7 United States or an officer of the United States sued in his or her official capacity.

8 | INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

9 11. Assignment is proper in the San Francisco division because the claims of Plaintiffs
10 that reside in this judicial district arise in Alameda and San Mateo Counties. Civil Local Rule 3-
11 2(d) and 3-5(b).

2 THE PARTIES

23 | **Plaintiffs**

12. **Plaintiff National TPS Alliance (NTPSA)** is a member-led organization whose mission is to defend the TPS program and win a path to permanent residency for TPS holders. NTPSA is fiscally sponsored by the Central American Resource Center - CARECEN - of California, a non-profit organization headquartered in Los Angeles, California, which has worked for more than four decades to provide immigrant integration programs, deliver immigration legal

1 services, and foster civic participation and community engagement on immigration policy,
2 education reform, and workers' rights.

3 13. NTPSA advocates to defend TPS and win a path to permanent status for TPS
4 holders; organizes actions to raise public awareness about TPS and the contributions TPS holders
5 make to this country; facilitates community and civic engagement by TPS holders; and provides
6 access to timely and accurate TPS-related information and services to its members. Membership in
7 the NTPSA is free and voluntary. Individuals can become NTPSA members either by joining a
8 local NTPSA committee or by submitting an individual membership application. NTPSA's
9 members set the organization's priorities, lead and participate in NTPSA's local committees and
10 working groups, and select and serve on NTPSA's Executive Committee.

11 14. NTPSA brings this action on behalf of its members. The vast majority of NTPSA's
12 members are TPS holders, including TPS holders from Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar),
13 Cameroon, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela,
14 and Yemen; the rest are family members of TPS holders and other individuals who wish to
15 support the TPS community. The NTPSA has over 84,000 Venezuelan TPS holder members
16 living in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. They face irreparable harm from the
17 challenged vacatur and termination.

18 15. **Plaintiff Mariela González** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2021
19 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur, is at risk of losing her TPS and work
20 authorization on September 10, 2025. She is a resident of San Mateo County, California, and has
21 lived in the United States for the past fourteen years. Mariela works as an instructional coach with
22 an urban school district. Her mother, father, brother, sister, and nephews all live in the United
23 States and are U.S. citizens. She is an NTPSA member.

24 16. **Plaintiff Freddy Jose Arape Rivas** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023
25 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing his TPS
26 on April 7, 2025. He applied to renew his TPS and work authorization on January 17, 2025,
27 pursuant to the now-vacated extension of TPS for Venezuelans. USCIS already automatically
28 extended his employment authorization for up to 540 days in response to his application. But the

1 new Federal Register Notice vacating the January 17 extension provides that “USCIS will
2 invalidate EADs” and TPS-related documentation issued pursuant to the January extension. Thus
3 Freddy’s work authorization is at risk of expiring on April 2, 2025. Freddy lives in Collin County,
4 Texas, and works for a technology company. He has family in Texas, including a cousin who,
5 along with his wife and seven-year-old daughter, also have TPS. He is an NTPSA member.

6 17. **Plaintiff M.H.** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023 designation and, as a
7 result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing her TPS status on April 7,
8 2025. Her work authorization expires on April 2, 2025. She lives in a Tennessee suburb with her
9 husband and two children. Her seven-year-old daughter also has TPS. Her husband, an engineer, is
10 a U.S. citizen employed by a government subcontractor, and together they have a two-year-old
11 U.S. citizen son. M.H. is a full-time caregiver for her two young children. Her driver’s license
12 expires when her TPS does, and she depends on it for her daily needs. She is an NTPSA member.

13 18. **Plaintiff Cecilia Daniela González Herrera** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under
14 the 2021 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur, is at risk of losing her TPS on
15 September 10, 2025. She lives with her parents and younger brother in Kissimmee, Florida, and is
16 a derivative applicant on her parents’ long-pending asylum application. She is a student at the
17 University of Central Florida and expects to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in May. She is also
18 employed as the Voting Rights Advocacy Coordinator for Latino Justice PRLDEF. She is an
19 NTPSA member.

20 19. **Plaintiff Alba Cecilia Purica Hernández** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the
21 2023 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing her
22 work authorization on April 2, 2025 and TPS on April 7, 2025. She had been a university student
23 in Venezuela. She lives in San Leandro, California and works as a childcare provider. She is an
24 NTPSA member.

25 20. **Plaintiff E.R.** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023 designation and is at
26 risk of losing her TPS on April 7, 2025 and her work authorization on April 2, 2025. She is a
27 single parent to a twelve-year-old daughter, who is also a TPS holder. She lives in New York,
28

1 where she works in a factory. She relies on TPS for her work authorization and legal status. She is
2 an NTPSA member.

3 21. **Plaintiff Hendrina Vivas Castillo** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023
4 designation, and, as a result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing her TPS
5 on April 7, 2025. Her work permit expires on April 2, 2025. She lives in Culver City, California
6 and works as a delivery driver. She is an NTPSA member.

7 **Defendants**

8 22. **Defendant Kristi Noem**, sued in her official capacity, is the Secretary of Homeland
9 Security. As the highest-ranking officer for DHS, Defendant Noem has ultimate statutory
10 authority over all TPS extension, termination, and designation decisions. *See* 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b); 6
11 U.S.C. 557 (transferring functions from the Attorney General).

12 23. **Defendant U.S. Department of Homeland Security** is a cabinet-level department
13 of the Executive Branch of the federal government and is an “agency” within the meaning of 5
14 U.S.C. 551(1). DHS includes various component agencies, including the U.S. Citizenship and
15 Immigration Services (“USCIS”). DHS, together with all of its component agencies, is responsible
16 for administering and enforcing the TPS program.

17 24. **Defendant United States of America** includes all other government agencies and
18 departments responsible for the implementation, administration, and change in policy concerning
19 the TPS program.

20 **STATUTORY FRAMEWORK**

21 25. Congress established the Temporary Protected Status program in the Immigration
22 Act of 1990.¹ TPS is a form of humanitarian relief, providing lawful immigration status to eligible
23 foreign nationals who cannot safely return home to war-torn or disaster-stricken countries. By
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28 ¹ Pub. L. No. 101-649, § 302, 104 Stat. 4978, 5030–36.

1 enacting the TPS statute, which is codified at 8 U.S.C. 1254a, Congress established formal criteria
2 for relief and set forth predictable procedures.²

3 26. Under the TPS statute, the Secretary of Homeland Security³ makes a “designation”
4 decision for a given country.⁴ After consulting with “appropriate” government agencies, the
5 Secretary may designate a foreign state, or any part of that state, for TPS based on: (A) an
6 “ongoing armed conflict within the state” that would “pose a serious threat” to the “personal
7 safety” of the foreign nationals of that state; (B) an “earthquake, flood, drought, epidemic, or other
8 environmental disaster in the state resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of living
9 conditions,” which makes the foreign state “unable, temporarily, to handle adequately the return to
10 the state” of its nationals, and where the foreign state has “officially” requested a designation; or
11 (C) the existence of “extraordinary and temporary conditions in the foreign state” that prevent
12 foreign nationals from safely returning, and where the temporary presence of those foreign
13 nationals in the United States is not “contrary to the national interest of the United States.”⁵

15 ² Before Congress created TPS, the Executive Branch previously used *ad hoc* enforcement
16 mechanisms to allow individuals to remain in the United States for humanitarian reasons. *See*
17 Adam B. Cox & Cristina Rodríguez, *The President and Immigration Law*, 119 Yale L.J. 458,
18 501–02 (2009) (discussing use of the “parole power,” which is currently codified at 8 U.S.C.
19 1182(d)(5)); Lynda J. Oswald, *Extended Voluntary Departure: Limiting the Attorney General’s*
20 *Discretion in Immigration Matters*, 85 Mich. L. Rev. 152 (1986) (discussing use of “Extended
21 Voluntary Departure”). Presidents have continued to employ such programs even after the
22 creation of TPS. For example, President Trump exercised his discretion to designate Venezuela
23 for “Deferred Enforced Departure” in 2020. Somewhat like TPS, deferred enforced departure
24 allows foreign nationals to remain and work in the United States lawfully while conditions in their
25 homeland are unsafe or return is impracticable.

22 ³ References to the Attorney General in provisions describing functions transferred from the
23 Department of Justice to the Department of Homeland Security “shall be deemed to refer to the
24 Secretary” of Homeland Security. *See* 6 U.S.C. 557.

24 ⁴ The agency has long recognized authority to designate a country more than once, which is called
25 “redesignation.” *See* Extension of Designation and Redesignation of Liberia Under Temporary
26 Protected Status Program, 62 Fed. Reg. 16608-01 (April 7, 1997) (concluding that the TPS statute
27 “explicitly contemplates more than one designation” for one country” because 8 U.S.C.
28 1254a(c)(1)(A)(i) refers to “the most recent designation of the state”). A TPS designation for a
country that is already designated for TPS is called a “redesignation.” When DHS redesignates a
country for TPS, it generally has the effect of expanding the pool of potential beneficiaries to
include individuals who came to the United States after the country was first designated for TPS.

⁵ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1).

1 27. An initial designation period for a given country lasts for six, twelve, or eighteen
2 months, at the Secretary’s discretion.⁶ Before the designation can become effective, the Secretary
3 must publish a notice in the Federal Register that includes, among other things, a statement of
4 findings, the effective date of the designation, and a tally of eligible foreign nationals. Once the
5 designation is ordered, it “shall remain in effect” for a period “of not less than 6 months,” and
6 remains operative until terminated under procedures specified in the statute.

7 28. Once the Secretary has designated a particular country for TPS, individuals from
8 that country (or persons without nationality who last habitually resided in that country) may apply
9 for immigration status under the program. To be eligible for TPS, however, individuals from a
10 designated country must meet stringent requirements. These requirements include, among other
11 things, continuous physical presence in the United States from the most recent date of designation;
12 continuous residence in the United States from a (potentially earlier) date designated by the
13 Secretary; satisfaction of the criteria for admissibility as an immigrant; lack of disqualifying
14 criminal history (where more than one misdemeanor or a single felony is disqualifying); and
15 submission of an application, extensive documentation, and fees.⁷

16 29. Congress ensured that individuals who are ultimately granted protected status could
17 enjoy the freedom to live and work in the United States without fear of deportation. Under the
18 statute’s clear directives, an individual who receives and maintains TPS “shall [be] authorize[d]”
19 to engage in employment in the United States; “shall not be detained” by the Secretary of
20 Homeland Security on the basis of immigration status; and “shall not [be] remove[d]” from the
21 United States by the Department of Homeland Security.⁸

22 30. The TPS statute requires the Secretary to periodically re-evaluate country
23 designations. At least 60 days before a particular designation expires, the Secretary must “review
24 the conditions in the foreign state . . . for which a designation is in effect” and determine whether
25

26 ⁶ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(2), (b)(3)(C).

27 ⁷ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(1); 8 C.F.R. 244.2, 244.4, 244.9.

28 ⁸ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(a)(1), (d)(4).

1 the country still meets the conditions for TPS.⁹ The review requires “consultation with appropriate
2 agencies of the Government” and, ultimately, publication of notice in the Federal Register.¹⁰

3 31. The review and consultation process typically begins months before the 60-day
4 deadline. First,

5 RAIO [the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate]
6 (a division within USCIS) provides a Country Conditions Memo. In
7 addition, OP&S [Office of Policy and Strategy] (another division within
8 USCIS) drafts a Decision Memo that contains USCIS’s
9 recommendation on what to do about the TPS designation. Once the
10 Decision Memo is finalized, the USCIS Director passes it on to the DHS
11 Secretary. The State Department provides further input (e.g., country
12 conditions, recommendations). At times, input can also come from other
13 government sources, but the above is the information consistently
14 provided to the DHS Secretary.¹¹

15 32. The Secretary must terminate TPS only if the designated country “no longer
16 continues to meet the conditions of designation.”¹² The statute does not permit consideration of
17 other grounds for termination. The effective date of any TPS termination must be at least 60 days
18 after publication of an official notice of termination, and may not precede the expiry of “the most
19 recent previous extension.”¹³ In other words, the statute does not permit the Secretary to cut short
20 a TPS period. The Secretary may, however, extend the period “to provide for an orderly
21 transition.”¹⁴

22 33. If the Secretary does not terminate TPS for a particular country, either because she
23 affirmatively finds that the country continues to meet the conditions for designation or because she
24 simply fails to make a decision, then the designation “is extended” for a period of six months, or
25 by discretion of the Secretary, for a period of twelve or eighteen months.¹⁵

26 ⁹ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3).

27 ¹⁰ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A).

28 ¹¹ *Ramos v. Nielsen*, 336 F. Supp. 3d 1075, 1082 (N.D. Cal. 2018).

¹² 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(B).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(d)(3).

¹⁵ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(C).

1 34. When a designation for a particular country is terminated, an individual TPS
2 holder's status will typically revert back to their original immigration status so long as that status
3 remains valid.¹⁶

4 **IN AN UNPRECEDENTED ACTION, DHS TERMINATED TPS FOR VENEZUELAN**
5 **TPS HOLDERS TO WHOM THE GOVERNMENT HAD GRANTED RENEWED**
6 **PROTECTION ONLY WEEKS EARLIER**

7 **Venezuelan TPS Designations**

8 35. Venezuelans living in the United States first received temporary protection from
9 removal on January 19, 2021, when President Trump—on the last day of his first
10 Administration—directed the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to “take appropriate
11 measures to defer for 18 months the removal of any national of Venezuela . . . who is present in
12 the United States as of January 20, 2021,” with limited exceptions, and “to take appropriate
13 measures to authorize employment for aliens whose removal has been deferred, as provided by
14 this memorandum, for the duration of such deferral.” Memorandum re Deferred Enforced
15 Departure for Certain Venezuelans, 86 Fed. Reg. 6845 (Jan. 19, 2021).

16 36. In designating Venezuela for Deferred Enforced Departure, President Trump
17 declared:

18 [T]he Maduro regime is responsible for the worst humanitarian crisis in
19 the Western Hemisphere in recent memory. A catastrophic economic
20 crisis and shortages of basic goods and medicine have forced about five
21 million Venezuelans to flee the country, often under dangerous
22 conditions. . . . The deteriorative condition within Venezuela, which
presents an ongoing national security threat to the safety and well-being
of the American people, warrants the deferral of the removal of
Venezuelan nationals who are present in the United States. *Id.*

23 37. On March 9, 2021 (under the Biden Administration), DHS designated Venezuela for
24 TPS based on the Secretary's determination that “extraordinary and temporary conditions in the
25 foreign state prevent [Venezuelans] from returning in safety” and “permitting [Venezuelans] to
26 remain temporarily in the United States” is not “contrary to the national interests of the United

27 _____
28 ¹⁶ 8 C.F.R. 244.19.

1 States.” 86 Fed. Reg. 13574, 13575 (“2021 Venezuela Designation”). The Secretary found that
2 “Venezuela is currently facing a severe humanitarian emergency” and:

3 [H]as been in the midst of a severe political and economic crisis for
4 several years . . . marked by a wide range of factors including: Economic
5 contraction; inflation and hyperinflation; deepening poverty; high levels
6 of unemployment; reduced access to and shortages of food and
7 medicine; a severely weakened medical system; the reappearance or
8 increased incidence of certain communicable diseases; a collapse in
9 basic services; water, electricity, and fuel shortages; political
10 polarization; institutional and political tensions; human rights abuses
11 and repression; crime and violence; corruption; increased human
12 mobility and displacement (including internal migration, emigration,
13 and return); and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, among other
14 factors.

15 *Id.* at 13576.

16 38. Also on March 9, 2021, via the same Federal Register Notice, DHS provided
17 employment authorization for Venezuelans covered by Deferred Enforced Departure. *Id.* at 13579.

18 39. The 2021 Venezuela Designation allowed eligible Venezuelans who had
19 continuously resided in the U.S. since March 8, 2021 and been physically present in the United
20 States since March 9, 2021 to apply for TPS.

21 40. On July 11, 2022, DHS issued a press release announcing then-Secretary Alejandro
22 Mayorkas’s decision to extend Venezuela’s TPS designation. The press release instructed:

23 Venezuelans who are currently eligible for TPS under the existing
24 designation but may have not yet applied with U.S. Citizenship and
25 Immigration Services (USCIS) should file their applications prior to the
26 September 9, 2022, application deadline, including those Venezuelans
27 who are covered under the January 2021 grant of Deferred Enforced
28 Departure (DED). Venezuela’s DED is set to expire July 20, 2022.¹⁷

41. Venezuela’s Deferred Enforced Departure expired on July 20, 2022. Every person
who had been eligible for it was by then eligible for TPS, provided they could satisfy the more
stringent background check criteria required for TPS.

42. On September 8, 2022, DHS extended Venezuela’s TPS designation for 18 months,
through March 10, 2024. 87 Fed. Reg. 55024. The Secretary found that extension was warranted

¹⁷ See DHS Announces Extension of Temporary Protected Status for Venezuela (July 11, 2022),
available at <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2022/07/11/dhs-announces-extension-temporary-protected-status-venezuela>.

1 due to ongoing “[e]xtraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent Venezuelan nationals from
2 returning in safety includ[ing] severe economic and political crises ongoing within Venezuela,
3 which have an impact across sectors, including limited access to food, basic services, and
4 adequate healthcare, and the deterioration of the rule of law and protection of human rights.” *Id.* at
5 55026. The Secretary also determined that “it is not contrary to the national interest of the United
6 States to permit Venezuelan TPS beneficiaries to remain in the United States temporarily.” *Id.* at
7 55027. However, because the decision was only an extension, and not also a re-designation, it did
8 not provide protection to Venezuelans who had arrived in the U.S. after March 9, 2021.

9 43. On October 3, 2023, DHS again extended the 2021 designation of Venezuela for 18
10 months, and also re-designated Venezuela for TPS for 18 months. 88 Fed. Reg. 68130 (“2023
11 Venezuela Designation”). The extension of the 2021 designation ran from March 11, 2024 to
12 September 10, 2025. The new 2023 re-designation ran from October 3, 2023 through April 2,
13 2025. The Secretary again found that

14 [E]xtraordinary and temporary conditions continue to prevent
15 Venezuelan nationals from returning in safety due to a severe
16 humanitarian emergency which has resulted in food insecurity and the
17 inability to access adequate medicine, healthcare, water, electricity, and
18 fuel. Additionally, human rights violations and abuses, high levels of
poverty, high levels of crime and violence, and heavy rains and flooding
prevent Venezuelan nationals from returning in safety and permitting
Venezuelan noncitizens to remain in the United States temporarily
would not be contrary to the interests of the United States.

19 *Id.* at 68134.

20 44. In order to qualify under the 2023 Venezuela Designation, TPS applicants had to
21 prove that they had continuously resided in the United States since July 31, 2023 and had been
22 continuously physically present since October 3, 2023. *Id.*

23 45. All individuals who were eligible for TPS under the 2021 Designation were also
24 eligible for TPS under the 2023 Designation, provided they registered in accordance with DHS
25 instructions.

26 46. DHS estimated that 243,000 Venezuelan TPS beneficiaries who first registered for
27 TPS under the 2021 Venezuela Designation were eligible to re-register for TPS under its
28 extension. *Id.*

47. In addition, DHS estimated “approximately 472,000 additional individuals may be eligible for TPS under the redesignation of Venezuela. This population includes Venezuelan nationals in the United States in nonimmigrant status or without immigration status.” *Id.* Such individuals were not eligible under the first designation because they arrived after March 9, 2021.

January 2025 TPS Extension for Venezuela

48. On January 17, 2025, Secretary Mayorkas extended the 2023 Venezuela Designation by 18 months, through October 2, 2026. 90 Fed. Reg. 5961 (“January 2025 Extension”). The Secretary found that extraordinary and temporary conditions in Venezuela continued to prevent nationals from returning in safety. He explained:

Venezuela is experiencing a complex, serious and multidimensional humanitarian crisis. The crisis has reportedly disrupted every aspect of life in Venezuela. Basic services like electricity, internet access, and water are patchy; malnutrition is on the rise; the healthcare system has collapsed; and children receive poor or no education. Inflation rates are also among the highest in the world. Venezuela's complex crisis has pushed Venezuelans into poverty, hunger, poor health, crime, desperation and migration. Moreover, Nicolas Maduro's declaration of victory in the July 28, 2024 presidential election—which has been contested as fraudulent by the opposition—has been followed by yet another sweeping crackdown on dissent.

Id. at 5963 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

49. The Secretary also determined that “it is not contrary to the national interest of the United States to permit Venezuelan TPS beneficiaries to remain in the United States temporarily.” *Id.*

50. The extension was effectively immediately. The registration period opened that day and extended through September 10, 2025.

51. The January 2025 Extension also explained that there would no longer be two separate filing process for TPS designations for Venezuela. Rather:

To decrease confusion among stakeholders, ensure optimal operational processes, and maintain the same eligibility requirements, upon publication of this Notice, individuals registered under either the March 9, 2021 TPS designation or the October 3, 2023 TPS designation will be allowed to re-register under this extension. This would not, however, require that a beneficiary registered under the March 9, 2021 designation re-register at this time. Rather, it would provide such individuals with the option of doing so. Venezuela TPS beneficiaries who appropriately apply for TPS or re-register under this Notice and are

1 approved by USCIS will obtain TPS through the same extension date of
2 October 2, 2026.

3 *Id.* at 5963.

4 52. The January 2025 Extension also automatically extended relevant employment
5 authorization documents. The notice instructed TPS holders that “if you already have an EAD
6 with a ‘Card Expires’ date of September 10, 2025, April 2, 2025, March 10, 2024, or September 9,
7 2022, this Federal Register Notice automatically extends it through April 2, 2026 without any
8 further action on your part.” *Id.* at 5967. It further instructed employers that they “should accept”
9 an expired EAD accompanied by a copy of the January 17, 2025 Federal Register Notice as proof
10 of work authorization through April 2, 2026. *Id.* at 5969-70.

11 53. DHS estimated that, as of January 17, 2025, there were 607,000 beneficiaries under
12 the 2021 and 2023 Venezuela Designations combined. *Id.*

13 **Vacatur of TPS Extension Three Days After Secretary Noem’s Confirmation**

14 54. On January 20, 2025, President Trump was sworn in as President of the United
15 States.

16 55. That same day, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled “Protecting the
17 American People Against Invasion.” The Order mandated that TPS designations be “appropriately
18 limited in scope” in order to ameliorate the “continued presence of illegal aliens in the United
19 States”:

20 The Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of
21 Homeland Security shall promptly take all appropriate action, consistent
22 with law, to rescind the policy decisions of the previous administration
23 that led to the increased or continued presence of illegal aliens in the
24 United States, and align any and all departmental activities with the
25 policies set out by this order and the immigration laws. Such action
26 should include, but is not limited to . . . ensuring that designations of
27 Temporary Protected Status are consistent with the provisions of section
28 244 of the INA (8 U.S.C. § 1254a), and that such designations are
appropriately limited in scope and made for only so long as may be
necessary to fulfill the textual requirements of that statute.¹⁸

56. On January 25, 2025, Secretary Noem was sworn in as DHS Secretary.

¹⁸ Exec. Order 14159 (Jan. 20, 2025), *available at* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>.

1 57. On January 28, 2025, Secretary Noem vacated the January 2025 Extension for
2 Venezuela, rendering more than 600,000 Venezuelans vulnerable to the loss of legal status and
3 associated benefits in April or September 2025.¹⁹

4 58. Secretary Noem's decision was the first vacatur of a TPS extension in the 35-year
5 history of the TPS statute.

6 59. On February 3, 2025, DHS formally published a notice in the Federal Register
7 vacating the January 2025 Extension. 90 Fed. Reg. 8805.

8 60. The vacatur asserted that the Secretary has "inherent authority under the INA to
9 reconsider any TPS-related determination, and upon reconsideration, to vacate or amend the
10 determination." *Id.* at 8806.

11 61. In the vacatur, Secretary Noem did not find any error in Secretary Mayorkas's
12 conclusion that Venezuela continued to meet the conditions for TPS designation. Instead, her sole
13 reason for vacating the extension was her objection to the registration requirement procedures
14 established by Secretary Mayorkas, specifically his decision to permit individuals who initially
15 applied for TPS under the 2021 Venezuela Designation to re-register under the 2023 Designation.

16 62. The vacatur states that it vacates: "(1) [the] extension of the Venezuela 2023 TPS
17 designation, (2) the consolidation of filing processes for both designations, which, in effect
18 resulted in the extension of the 2021 TPS designation, and (3) the EADs that were extended." *Id.*
19 at 8807.

20 63. The vacatur further rescinds the automatic extension of employment authorization
21 granted by the January 2025 extension; invalidates employment authorization and approval
22 notices already granted; and cancels the ongoing processing of applications already filed. The
23 notice states:

24 Pursuant to this vacatur, USCIS will no longer accept Venezuela TPS
25 re-registration applications (Form I-821) and associated Applications
26 for Employment Authorization (Form I-765) filed under the [January
2025 Extension]. For TPS beneficiaries who have already filed

27 ¹⁹ USCIS, *Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Venezuela*, available at
28 <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-venezuela>.

1 applications to re-register for TPS pursuant to the [January 2025
2 Extension] and paid any fees associated with their applications, USCIS
3 will cease processing their applications, and issue refunds of any fees
4 paid by those aliens.[FN5] Additionally, USCIS will invalidate EADs;
5 Forms I-797, Notice of Action (Approval Notice); and Forms I-94,
Arrival/Departure Record (collectively known as TPS-related
documentation) that have been issued with October 2, 2026 expiration
dates under the [January 2025 Extension]. USCIS will provide refunds
to any fees paid by these aliens as well.

6 Additionally, pursuant to this vacatur the automatic EAD extensions
7 provided in the [January 2025 Extension] are hereby rescinded. USCIS
8 will provide additional guidance regarding the two Venezuela TPS
designations on a future date in accordance with applicable laws.

Fast-Track Termination of TPS for 350,000 Venezuelans

9 64. On February 1, 2025, Secretary Noem “decided to terminate” the 2023 Venezuela
10 Designation, ordering an end to the legal status of approximately 350,000 Venezuelans, effective
11 in April.²⁰

12 65. The reasoning in Secretary Noem’s decision would also justify the termination of
13 TPS for the approximately 250,000 people protected by the 2021 Venezuela Designation. Under
14 the statute that decision must be made no later than July 2025.²¹

15 66. On February 5, 2025, DHS published a notice in the Federal Register terminating
16 the 2023 Venezuela Designation. 90 Fed. Reg. 9040.

17 67. The termination notice does *not* contend that the crisis conditions supporting the
18 2023 Venezuela Designation have ended, finding instead that “the relevant conditions in
19 Venezuela remain both ‘extraordinary’ and ‘temporary.’” Secretary Noem nonetheless
20 “determined that Venezuela no longer continues to meet the conditions for the 2023 designation”
21 because “it is contrary to the national interest to permit the covered Venezuelan nationals to
22 remain temporarily in the United States.” *Id.* at 9041.

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26 ²⁰ USCIS, *Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Venezuela*, available at
27 <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-venezuela>.

28 ²¹ The statute requires a decision at least 60 days prior to the expiry of any particular TPS
designation. 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3).

1 68. In her review of whether TPS for Venezuela is in the national interest, Secretary
2 Noem cited President Trump’s directives—his Executive Order, “Protecting the American People
3 Against Invasion,” his “recent, immigration and border-related executive orders and proclamations
4 [which] clearly articulated an array of policy imperatives bearing upon the national interest”; his
5 declaration of a “national emergency at the southern border,” and his directive to put “America
6 and American citizens first.” *Id.* at 9042–43.

7 69. Most TPS holders lack *any* criminal history. Indeed, individuals are ineligible for
8 TPS if they have more than a single misdemeanor conviction. Yet the termination notice justifies
9 terminating the status of nearly 350,000 Venezuelan TPS holders because alleged members of a
10 Venezuelan gang have been “blamed for sex trafficking, drug smuggling, police shootings,
11 kidnappings, and the exploitation of migrants,” and because President Trump recently placed that
12 gang on a “list of transnational criminal organizations.” In elaborating why extension is not in the
13 national interest, the Notice provides: “TPS has allowed a significant population of inadmissible
14 or illegal aliens without a path to lawful immigration status to settle in the interior of the United
15 States[.] . . . Among these Venezuelan nationals who have crossed into the United States are
16 members of the Venezuelan gang known as Tren de Aragua.” *Id.*

17 70. Despite that the termination notice issued only two days after the vacatur notice (and
18 less than two weeks after Noem took office), the Notice proclaims that the decision to terminate
19 the 2023 Venezuela Designation followed “consultation with the appropriate U.S. Government
20 agencies,” a review of “country conditions,” and a “consider[ation of] whether permitting
21 Venezuelan nationals covered by the 2023 designation is contrary to the national interest.” *Id.* at
22 9041.

23 71. The termination takes effect April 7, 2025 or 60 days after the publication of the
24 termination notice. This is the earliest possible date of termination allowed by law; it provides for
25 no orderly transition period.²² While the termination notice recognizes the discretionary authority
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27 ²² 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(B) (termination may be effective no earlier than 60 days after publication
28 in the Federal Register or, “if later, the expiration of the most recent previous extension”); 8
U.S.C. 1254a(d)(3) (Secretary may establish an orderly transition period).

1 of the DHS Secretary to provide for an “‘orderly transition’ period if she determines it to be
2 appropriate,” it rejects one as improper here. The termination notice justifies this in light of the
3 Secretary’s determination that the termination is compelled in the “national interest,” and her
4 finding that there are limited “putative reliance interests.” *Id.* at 9042–44.

5 72. The termination notice does *not* extend the employment authorization documents for
6 2023 Venezuela registrants beyond the date permitted by the original 2023 Designation. Thus,
7 TPS holders protected by the 2023 Venezuela Designation have TPS-related work authorization
8 only until April 2, 2025—five days prior to the expiry of their legal status—even though the
9 statute requires that individuals protected by TPS have “effective” work authorization “throughout
10 the period [they are] in temporary protected status.”²³

11 **THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO END TPS**

12 **PROTECTIONS AND DESTROY THE TPS PROGRAM**

13 **Secretary Noem and President Trump Promised to Terminate TPS**

14 73. Secretary Noem, President Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance have repeatedly
15 characterized TPS itself as illegal, and committed to terminate TPS long before the Secretary had
16 any opportunity to consider the factors required by the statute. Secretary Noem’s decision to
17 terminate the 2023 Venezuela Designation treats the program itself as illegal.

18 74. DHS never acknowledged or explained the departure from the agency’s prior
19 recognition that Congress lawfully authorized TPS designations, that TPS is itself legal, and that
20 individual TPS designations may be in the national interest.

21 75. Both prior to and since assuming her position running DHS, Secretary Noem has
22 reiterated her view that TPS, as it has been used, is illegal. At her confirmation hearing, Secretary
23 Noem stated that “[TPS] has been abused and manipulated by the Biden Administration, and that
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28 ²³ 8 U.S.C. 1254a(a)(1)(B).

1 will no longer be allowed . . . and these extensions going forward the way that they are. The
2 program was intended to be temporary[.]”²⁴

3 76. Secretary Noem defined TPS holders as law violators just by virtue of having this
4 humanitarian status. In announcing her decision to end TPS for Venezuela, Secretary Noem said
5 the termination “stopped” former Secretary Mayorkas from letting Venezuelan TPS holders “stay
6 here and violate our laws for another 18 months.”²⁵

7 77. In a February 2, 2025 “Meet the Press” appearance the day the vacatur was
8 published, Secretary Noem said, “The TPP [*sic*] program has been abused and it doesn’t have
9 integrity right now.”²⁶

10 78. President Trump, Vice President Vance, and Trump surrogates have likewise
11 championed the view that TPS designations are “illegal”—or, in the Vice President’s words, “a
12 magic amnesty wand.”²⁷ They have made clear their intent to target TPS and/or TPS designations
13 for termination.

14 79. President Trump, while campaigning, said that he would personally revoke TPS and
15 that he did not consider it legal. President Trump responded to an interviewer’s question as to
16 whether Haitian TPS holders in Springfield, Ohio were “legal or illegal” and whether he would
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20 ²⁴ C-SPAN, *Homeland Security Secretary Nominee Gov. Kristi Noem Testifies at Confirmation*
21 *Hearing* (Jan. 17, 2025) at approx. 1:51:50, available at [https://www.c-span.org/program/senate-](https://www.c-span.org/program/senate-committee/homeland-security-secretary-nominee-gov-kristi-noem-testifies-at-confirmation-hearing/654484)
22 [committee/homeland-security-secretary-nominee-gov-kristi-noem-testifies-at-confirmation-](https://www.c-span.org/program/senate-committee/homeland-security-secretary-nominee-gov-kristi-noem-testifies-at-confirmation-hearing/654484)
23 [hearing/654484](https://www.c-span.org/program/senate-committee/homeland-security-secretary-nominee-gov-kristi-noem-testifies-at-confirmation-hearing/654484).

24 ²⁵ *DHS Sec. Noem Announces End to Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelan Migrants*, FOX
25 AND FRIENDS (Jan. 29, 2025) at approx. 1:00, available at
26 [https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msocid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad68603](https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msocid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad686037)
27 7.

28 ²⁶ NBC, *Meet the Press*, YOUTUBE (Feb. 2, 2025) at approx. 16:25, available at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpeMXrvxHco>.

²⁷ See Chris Cameron, *Vance Vows an End to Programs for Legal Immigrants*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct.
22, 2024), available at [https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/vance-trump-legal-](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/vance-trump-legal-immigrants.html)
immigrants.html; Miriam Jordan & Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Immigration Targets: Ukrainians,*
Venezuelans, Haitians, N.Y. TIMES (Nov. 15, 2024), available at
<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/15/us/trump-immigrants-temporary-protected-status.html>.

1 “revoke TPS status” by saying: “You have to remove the people; you cannot destroy our country
2 . . . In my opinion, it’s not legal. . . . Absolutely I would revoke [TPS].”²⁸

3 80. Though TPS holders in Springfield, Ohio were welcomed by local officials and
4 employers, and legally authorized to live and work in the United States through the TPS program,
5 President Trump said, “they are illegal immigrants as far as I’m concerned. They’re destroying the
6 towns. . . . [T]hey’ll end up destroying the state!”²⁹

7 81. Vice President Vance, during the campaign, expressed a goal of ending TPS: “We’re
8 going to stop doing mass grants of Temporary Protected Status. Of course, you’re going to have
9 people fleeing from tyranny, but that happens on a case-by-case basis, not by waving the magic
10 government wand.”³⁰ Given that TPS is, by statute, designed to *be* a mass grant for all eligible
11 individuals (unlike asylum and other forms of fear-based immigration relief), this statement can
12 only be understood as an attack on TPS itself.

13 82. According to the New York Times, Stephen Miller, President Trump’s Deputy Chief
14 of Staff and chief architect of his immigration policy platform, and other top advisers flagged the
15 revocation of TPS as a priority for the incoming administration, again without consideration of
16 country conditions or the merit of any individual designation.³¹

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19 ²⁸ Damita Menezes & Ali Bradley, *Trump on Springfield Haitian Migrants: ‘They Have to Be*
20 *Removed,*’ NEWSNATION (Oct. 2, 2024) at approx. 12:00, *available at*
[https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-](https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-removed/)
[removed/](https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-removed/).

21 ²⁹ Edith Olmstead, *Trump Is Now Threatening All Immigrants, “Illegal” or Not,* THE NEW
22 REPUBLIC (Oct. 9, 2024), *available at* [https://newrepublic.com/post/186961/donald-trump-racist-](https://newrepublic.com/post/186961/donald-trump-racist-attacks-springfield-ohio-lie)
23 [attacks-springfield-ohio-lie](https://newrepublic.com/post/186961/donald-trump-racist-attacks-springfield-ohio-lie) (“[L]ook at Springfield, where 30,000 illegal immigrants are dropped,
and it was, they may have done it through a certain little trick, but they are illegal immigrants as
far as I’m concerned.”).

24 ³⁰ Chris Cameron, *Vance Vows an End to Programs for Legal Immigrants,* N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 22,
25 2024), *available at* [https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/vance-trump-legal-](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/vance-trump-legal-immigrants.html)
[immigrants.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/vance-trump-legal-immigrants.html).

26 ³¹ Charlie Savage *et al.*, *Sweeping Raids, Giant Camps and Mass Deportations: Inside Trump’s*
27 *2025 Immigration Plans,* N.Y. TIMES (Nov. 11, 2023), *available at*
28 <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/11/us/politics/trump-2025-immigration-agenda.html> (“People
who were granted temporary protected status because they are from certain countries deemed
unsafe, allowing them to lawfully live and work in the United States, would have that status
revoked.”).

1 83. Project 2025, “the 2025 Presidential Transition Project,” a product of current and
2 former Trump political appointees, also called for the “[r]epeal [of] TPS designations”—without
3 elaboration as to any consideration of country conditions or any other review criteria or
4 processes.³²

5 84. President Trump’s motivation to terminate TPS is not new. During the first Trump
6 Administration, DHS Secretaries faced unrelenting pressure from the White House to reach its
7 “desired result of terminating TPS” and responded by ordering pre-textual terminations of TPS
8 designations for nearly everyone who held the status. Those termination decisions were ultimately
9 struck down in litigation.³³

10 85. Secretary Noem’s actions follow this familiar pattern, and show that she was
11 motivated in part in response to a clear mandate from President Trump and other Trump
12 administration immigration officials. This is evident by her reliance on President Trump’s policy
13 objections as the sole support for her determination that termination of TPS for Venezuela was not
14 in the national interest.

15 **SECRETARY NOEM AND PRESIDENT TRUMP EXPRESSED DISCRIMINATORY**
16 **ANIMUS TOWARDS VENEZUELAN TPS HOLDERS**

17 86. Secretary Noem’s vacatur and termination decisions were motivated in significant
18 part by animus against Venezuelans based on their perceived race, ethnicity, and national origin .
19 The animus is evidenced by numerous statements made by Secretary Noem, President Trump and
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21 ³² Paul Dans & Steven Groves, eds., “Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise,” at
22 150, *available at* https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf.

23 ³³ *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1081 (granting preliminary injunction enjoining implementation of
24 TPS terminations for Sudan, Haiti, El Salvador, and Nicaragua); *see also Saget v. Trump*, 375 F.
25 Supp. 3d 280 (E.D.N.Y. 2019) (finding Plaintiffs likely to succeed on claims that 2018
26 termination of Haiti’s TPS designation violated the APA and the equal protection component of
27 the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause and issuing preliminary injunction); *Centro Presente v.*
28 *DHS*, 332 F. Supp. 3d 393, 416 (D. Mass. 2018) (denying motion to dismiss and explaining “there
is no justification, explicit or otherwise, for Defendants’ switch to focusing on whether the
conditions that caused the initial designation had abated rather than a fuller evaluation of whether
the country would be able to safely accept returnees”); *Casa de Md., Inc. v. Trump*, 355 F. Supp.
3d 307 (D. Md. 2018) (denying motion to dismiss because plaintiffs plausibly alleged equal
protection and APA challenge).

1 other Trump administration officials. A limited number of those statements are described herein.
2 They leave no doubt as to the speaker's discriminatory motives against nonwhite immigrants in
3 general and Venezuelans in particular.

4 **Secretary Noem's Racist Statements**

5 87. In announcing the vacatur in a "Fox and Friends" interview on January 29, 2025,
6 Secretary Noem described Venezuelans in the United States as "dirtbags": "Today we signed an
7 executive order within the Department of Homeland Security and a direction that we were not
8 going to follow through on what he did to tie our hands, that we are going to follow the process,
9 evaluate all of these individuals that are in our country, including the Venezuelans that are here
10 and members of TdA [transnational gang Tren de Aragua]. Listen, . . . the people of this country
11 want *these dirtbags* out. They want their communities to be safe . . . So, this is part of our plan to
12 make sure we are protecting America and keeping it safe again, just like President Trump
13 promised."³⁴

14 88. This was not an isolated occurrence. Secretary Noem has repeatedly described
15 immigrants, and particularly those from Venezuela, as "dirtbags."³⁵

16 89. The vast majority of Venezuelan TPS holders have no criminal history, and in
17 general people are ineligible for TPS if they have more than a single misdemeanor conviction.
18 Nonetheless, Secretary Noem has also sought to disparage Venezuelan TPS holders as
19 "criminals." At her confirmation hearing, Secretary Noem said: "[T]his extension [of TPS] of over
20

21 ³⁴ *DHS Sec. Noem Announces End to Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelan Migrants*, FOX
22 AND FRIENDS (Jan. 29, 2025) at approx. 1:00, available at
23 [https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msocid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad68603](https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msocid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad686037)
24 7 (emphasis added).

25 ³⁵ @Sec_Noem, X (Jan. 28, 2025, 7:35 AM), available at
26 https://x.com/Sec_Noem/status/1884264039158800547 ("Getting the dirt bags off the streets.");
27 *DHS Secretary Kristi Noem Joins Federal Agents on Immigration Raids in New York*, CBS
28 MORNINGS (Jan. 29, 2025) at approx. 1:10, available at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tODarHnNiNs> ("These guys are dirtbags. They have come in
and perpetuated violence in this country."). The CBS reporter who accompanied Secretary Noem
on New York City raids she references reported that nearly half of those arrested had no criminal
history.

1 600,000 Venezuelans [] is alarming when you look at what we've seen in different states including
2 Colorado with gangs doing damage and harming the individuals and the people that live there.”³⁶

3 90. She has also repeatedly conflated Venezuelan TPS holders with members of a
4 Venezuelan gang which the Trump administration designated as a foreign terrorist organization.
5 On the January 29 “Fox and Friends” interview, Secretary Noem described ending TPS for
6 Venezuelans as necessary in order to “evaluate all of these individuals that are in our country,
7 including the Venezuelans that are here and members of TdA,” referring to Tren de Aragua.³⁷

8 91. Secretary Noem also conflated TPS holders and Tren de Aragua gang members in
9 the termination notice itself.

10 92. On February 2, 2025, the publication date of the Federal Register Notice announcing
11 the vacatur, Secretary Noem appeared on NBC News’ “Meet the Press” and said: “Folks from
12 Venezuela that have come into this country are members of TdA. And remember, Venezuela
13 purposely emptied out their prisons, emptied out their mental health facilities and sent them to the
14 United States of America. So we are ending that extension of that program, adding some integrity
15 back into it, and this administration is evaluating all of our programs to make sure they truly are
16 something that is to the benefit of the United States, so that they are not to the benefit of
17 criminals.”³⁸

18 93. Secretary Noem’s baseless assertion that Venezuela emptied out prisons and mental
19 institutions to send people to the United States long predates her term as Secretary. She has made
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22 ³⁶ *Homeland Security Secretary Nominee Gov. Kristi Noem Testifies at Confirmation Hearing*, C-
23 SPAN (Jan. 17, 2025) at approx. 1:52:00, available at [https://www.c-span.org/program/senate-](https://www.c-span.org/program/senate-committee/homeland-security-secretary-nominee-gov-kristi-noem-testifies-at-confirmation-hearing/654484)
24 [committee/homeland-security-secretary-nominee-gov-kristi-noem-testifies-at-confirmation-](https://www.c-span.org/program/senate-committee/homeland-security-secretary-nominee-gov-kristi-noem-testifies-at-confirmation-hearing/654484)
[hearing/654484](https://www.c-span.org/program/senate-committee/homeland-security-secretary-nominee-gov-kristi-noem-testifies-at-confirmation-hearing/654484).

25 ³⁷ *DHS Sec. Noem Announces End to Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelan Migrants*, FOX
26 AND FRIENDS (Jan. 29, 2025) at approx. 1:10, available at
27 [https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msocid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad68603](https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msocid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad686037)
28 7.

³⁸ NBC, *Meet the Press*, YOUTUBE (Feb. 2, 2025) at approx. 16:27, available at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpeMXrvxHco>.

1 this false claim repeatedly.³⁹ One year before she was named DHS Secretary, Noem already
2 targeted Venezuelans for deportation, saying “Venezuela didn’t send us their best. They emptied
3 their prisons and sent criminals to America. Deportations need to start on DAY ONE of [President
4 Trump’s] term” in office.⁴⁰

5 94. In a CBS News interview on March 5, 2024, Secretary Noem asserted that the
6 “invasion” by Venezuelan (and Cuban) immigrants constituted an existential threat to the country.
7 “We’ve seen these countries that hate us empty out their prisons, their mental institutions. They’ve
8 given us their responsibilities and some of the most dangerous people in the world have made their
9 way to the United States of America. . . . [C]ountries such as Venezuela and Cuba have been
10 emptying out their prisons. . . . So we know for a fact that this was facilitated, that the White
11 House has this invasion happening on purpose, and it is to remake the foundation of this
12 country.”⁴¹

13 95. Secretary Noem’s assertions are not just unsubstantiated; they are false. Tren de
14 Aragua’s “reputation” is overblown, and not matched by “its actual presence in the United
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17 ³⁹ @KristiNoem, X (Feb. 26, 2024, 11:19 AM), *available at*
18 <https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1762195636491825295> (“Nations like Venezuela are emptying
19 their prisons of dangerous criminals to send them to America. They are happy to let America’s
20 open border be the solution to their problem.”); @KristiNoem, X (Feb. 27, 2024, 5:26 PM),
21 *available at* <https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1762650522920652828> (Venezuela didn’t send us
22 their best. They emptied their prisons and sent criminals to America.”); @KristiNoem, Instagram
23 (Mar. 6, 2024), *available at* <https://www.instagram.com/kristinoem/reel/C4ML17eRBYr/>
24 (“Countries like Venezuela are emptying their prisons, their mental institutions, and sending them
25 to America. The White House is facilitating this invasion. They’re doing it on purpose.”);
26 @KristiNoem, X (Mar. 14, 2024, 9:24 AM), *available at*
27 <https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1768312288560247199> (“At least 300,000 illegal immigrants
28 from Venezuela have been encountered at the border. Remember, Venezuela emptied their prisons
and told them to come to America.”); @KristiNoem, Instagram (Dec. 9, 2024), *available at*
<https://www.instagram.com/kristinoem/reel/DDVjJnURRqw/> (“[N]ations like Venezuela are using
our open border to solve their own crime and mental health crises.”).

⁴⁰ @KristiNoem, X (Feb. 27, 2024, 5:26 PM), *available at*
<https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1762650522920652828>.

⁴¹ *South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem Calls on Nikki Haley to Exit 2024 Race*, CBS NEWS (Mar. 5,
2024) at approx. 3:58, *available at* <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/kristi-noem-calls-on-nikki-haley-to-exit-2024-race/>.

1 States.”⁴² “[N]early no claims made by U.S. law enforcement about crimes committed by
2 purported members of TdA have been substantiated by hard evidence that directly connects the
3 accused with the organization in Venezuela.”⁴³

4 96. When investigative journalists sought to study claims about the gang’s activity last
5 year, “none of the [numerous] national, state, and local law enforcement agencies contacted in the
6 U.S. reported any significant presence of Tren de Aragua” in their jurisdictions.⁴⁴ A 2024 review
7 of state and federal legal databases found zero “U.S. criminal cases mentioning Tren de
8 Aragua.”⁴⁵ The police chief and Republican mayor of the Colorado town that President Trump and
9 Secretary Noem claimed had been ravaged by the gang each thoroughly refuted that assertion,
10 instead identifying a delinquent property manager as the primary culprit for dilapidated properties
11 with “‘criminal elements,’ not widespread gang activity.”⁴⁶ And a Washington Post investigation
12 laid bare the fallacy of DHS’s claim that it had transferred to Guantanamo Tren de Aragua
13 members described as the “worst of the worst.” The Washington Post found no evidence that those
14 transferred were even Tren de Aragua members; most had not even made it *into* the United States
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19 ⁴² Venezuela Investigative Unit, *What We Know About Tren de Aragua’s US Presence*, INSIGHT
20 CRIME (Oct. 4, 2024), *available at* <https://insightcrime.org/news/what-we-know-about-tren-de-araguas-us-presence/>.

21 ⁴³ Charles Larratt-Smith & John Polga-Hecimovich, *How Much of a Threat is Tren de Aragua in*
22 *the U.S.?*, AMERICAS QUARTERLY (Dec. 9, 2024), *available at*
23 <https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/> (“[I]t’s
unlikely the group has much power or reach in the U.S., where other organized criminal
organizations pose much more of a threat to citizens and TdA itself.”).

24 ⁴⁴ Venezuela Investigative Unit, *Is Venezuela’s Tren de Aragua ‘Invading’ the US?*, INSIGHT
25 CRIME (Apr. 1, 2024), *available at* <https://insightcrime.org/news/is-venezuelas-tren-de-aragua-invading-us/> (“Police agencies in major urban areas across the United States – including Los
26 Angeles, Phoenix, Dallas, San Antonio, and Denver – told InSight Crime that they had no reports
of crimes committed by Tren de Aragua in their jurisdictions.”).

27 ⁴⁵ *Id.*

28 ⁴⁶ Jonathan Weisman, *How the False Story of a Gang ‘Takeover’ in Colorado Reached Trump*,
N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 15, 2024), *available at* <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/15/us/politics/trump-aurora-colorado-immigration.html>.

1 at the time of their arrest; and experts consistently rejected the assertion that there were more than
2 a few hundred TdA members in the United States at all.⁴⁷

3 97. DHS itself identified only 600 Venezuelan migrants “who may have connections” to
4 Tren de Aragua—including not just members, but also victims, witnesses or subjects of interest.⁴⁸

5 98. The claim that Venezuelan prisons and mental health facilities are being emptied out
6 to send their residents to the United States is also false. “There is no evidence that the Venezuelan
7 government is systemically or selectively releasing prisoners and expelling them from the
8 country.”⁴⁹ Nor has President Trump provided any substantiation for this repeated assertion.⁵⁰
9 Experts contend that there simply *aren’t* psychiatric hospitals filled with mentally ill people in
10 Venezuela to be released.⁵¹

11 **President Trump’s Racist Statements**

12 99. From his candidacy for his first term as president through the present, President
13 Trump has repeatedly denigrated people perceived to be non-white immigrants. He has
14 specifically targeted both TPS holders generally and Venezuelans in particular.

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16 ⁴⁷ Silvia Foster-Frau et al., *Relatives and Records Cast Doubt on Guantánamo Migrants Being ‘Worst of the Worst’*, WASH. POST (Feb. 16, 2025), available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/16/trump-guantanamo-migrants-deportations-venezuela/>.

17
18 ⁴⁸ Julia Ainsley, *DHS Is Seeking More than 600 Migrants for Possible Ties to Venezuelan Gang*, NBC NEWS (Oct. 23, 2024), available at <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/dhs-identified-600-migrants-possible-ties-venezuelan-gang-rcna176020>.

19
20 ⁴⁹ Jorge Valencia, *Trump Says Venezuela Sends Criminals to the U.S. Here’s What to Know*, N.Y. TIMES (July 31, 2024), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/31/world/americas/trump-crime-venezuela-us.html> (describing the lack of any evidence for the assertion that Venezuela is emptying prisons and expelling prisoners to the United States, and considering it “highly unlikely”).

21
22 ⁵⁰ Daniel Dale, *Fact Check: Trump’s Own Campaign Can’t Find Proof for His ‘Mental Institutions’ Immigration Story*, CNN (Apr. 29, 2023), available at <https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/29/politics/fact-check-trump-mental-institutions-migrants-doctor/index.html>.

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24
25 ⁵¹ Maria Ramirez Uribe & Amy Sherman, *Trump’s Ridiculous Claim that ‘Millions’ of Immigrants Came Illegally from Jails, Mental Facilities*, POLITIFACT (June 6, 2024), available at <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2024/jun/06/donald-trump/fact-check-trumps-ridiculous-claim-that-millions-o/> (quoting an immigrant behavioral health expert to conclude that President Trump’s assertion that Venezuela was emptying mental health facilities and sending residents to the United States “does not make sense because those numbers are not there”).

1 100. Secretary Noem’s reliance on President Trump’s objectives in justifying the
2 termination of TPS for Venezuela demonstrated her adoption of President Trump’s animus as well
3 as her response to pressure from President Trump and the White House to reach a quick decision
4 to terminate TPS.

5 101. During his prior administration, President Trump repeatedly denigrated immigrants
6 from countries designated for TPS, including Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras. Most infamously,
7 he referred to countries designated for TPS as “shithole” countries in a conversation with
8 legislators about TPS. He expressed a preference, instead, for immigrants from countries “such as
9 Norway.”⁵²

10 102. During his recent campaign, President Trump defended these remarks, reiterating
11 comparisons between “nice countries, you know like Denmark, Switzerland” and “Norway,” and
12 “unbelievable places and countries, countries that are a disaster,” when speaking about
13 immigrants.⁵³

14 103. President Trump has sought to dehumanize immigrants, including TPS holders in
15 particular, through other statements. For months, he repeated and amplified the false claim that
16 Haitian TPS holders were “eating the dogs” and “eating the cats,” “eating the pets of the people
17 that live” in Springfield, Ohio.⁵⁴

18
19 ⁵² Josh Dawsey, *Trump Derides Protections for Immigrants from ‘Shithole’ Countries*, WASH.
20 POST (Jan. 12, 2018), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-attacks-protections-for-immigrants-from-shithole-countries-in-oval-office-meeting/2018/01/11/bfc0725c-f711-11e7-91af-31ac729add94_story.html?utm_term=.06cbc70bfaec.

21
22 ⁵³ Maggie Haberman & Michael Gold, *Trump, at Fund-Raiser, Says He Wants Immigrants from*
23 *‘Nice’ Countries*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 7, 2024), available at
24 <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/07/us/politics/trump-immigrants-nice-countries.html> (“These
are people coming in from prisons and jails. They’re coming in from just unbelievable places and
countries, countries that are a disaster.”).

25 ⁵⁴ See, e.g., CBS NEWS, *Simulcast – ABC News Presidential Debate*, C-SPAN (Sept. 10, 2024) at
26 approx. 29:26, available at <https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/simulcast-abc-news-presidential-debate/648383>; see Kit Maher & Chris Boyette, *JD Vance Defends Baseless Rumor*
27 *About Haitian Immigrants Eating Pets*, CNN (Sept. 15, 2024), available at
28 <https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/15/politics/vance-immigrants-pets-springfield-ohio-cnn/index.html> (“The American media totally ignored this stuff until Donald Trump and I
started talking about cat memes. If I have to create stories so that the American media actually
pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that’s what I’m going to do.”).

1 104. President Trump has often compared immigrants to snakes that will bite and kill
2 anyone foolish enough to shelter them.⁵⁵ He has also described nonwhite immigrants as
3 “animals.”⁵⁶ For example, President Trump said about some undocumented immigrants during a
4 March 2024 rally, “I don’t know if you call them people. In some cases they’re not people, in my
5 opinion, but I’m not allowed to say that[.]”⁵⁷

6 105. President Trump has repeatedly described immigrants in the United States as an
7 “invasion,” repeatedly conflating migrants with “[drug dealers], criminals, gang members and
8 terrorists.”⁵⁸

9 106. President Trump, while campaigning in December 2023, decried nonwhite
10 immigrants for “poisoning the blood of our country.”⁵⁹

11
12 ⁵⁵ See, e.g., Dara Lind, “*The Snake*”: Donald Trump Brings Back His Favorite Anti-Immigrant
13 Fable at CPAC, VOX (Feb. 23, 2018), available at [www.vox.com/policy-and-](http://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/23/17044744/trump-snake-speech-cpac)
14 [politics/2018/2/23/17044744/trump-snake-speech-cpac](http://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/23/17044744/trump-snake-speech-cpac); see also Julie Hirschfeld Davis, *Trump*
15 *Calls Some Unauthorized Immigrants ‘Animals’ in Rant*, N.Y. TIMES (May 16, 2018), available at
16 www.nytimes.com/2018/05/16/us/politics/trump-undocumented-immigrants-animals.html; see
17 also John Bennett, “*Dumping Ground*”: Trump Echoes Conservative “Project 2025” at First
18 Rally as Felon, ROLL CALL (June 10, 2024), available at [https://rollcall.com/2024/06/10/dumping-](https://rollcall.com/2024/06/10/dumping-ground-trump-echoes-conservative-project-2025-at-first-rally-as-a-felon/)
19 [ground-trump-echoes-conservative-project-2025-at-first-rally-as-a-felon/](https://rollcall.com/2024/06/10/dumping-ground-trump-echoes-conservative-project-2025-at-first-rally-as-a-felon/) (“[W]e’re taking in
20 people that are a disaster for our country. So it’s all happening at our border. . . . And we’re not
21 going to let it happen, we’re not going to let them ruin our country, we’re not going to let them
22 destroy our country. . . . The whole country is being turned into an absolute dumping ground[.]”)

23 ⁵⁶ Miriam Valverde, *In Context: Donald Trump’s comments about immigrations, ‘animals,’*
24 *POLITIFACT* (May 17, 2018), available at [https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-](https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2018/may/17/context-donald-trumps-comments-about-immigrants-an/)
25 [meter/article/2018/may/17/context-donald-trumps-comments-about-immigrants-an/](https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2018/may/17/context-donald-trumps-comments-about-immigrants-an/) (relying on
26 MS-13 to claim that undocumented immigrants “aren’t people. These are animals.”).

27 ⁵⁷ Ariana Figueroa, *Trump Promises Mass Deportations of Undocumented People. How Would*
28 *That Work?*, MISSOURI INDEPENDENT (Aug. 23, 2024), available at
[https://missouriindependent.com/2024/08/23/trump-promises-mass-deportations-of-](https://missouriindependent.com/2024/08/23/trump-promises-mass-deportations-of-undocumented-people-how-would-that-work/)
[undocumented-people-how-would-that-work/](https://missouriindependent.com/2024/08/23/trump-promises-mass-deportations-of-undocumented-people-how-would-that-work/).

⁵⁸ See, e.g., Donald Trump, *Donald Trump: This Is How I Will End Joe Biden’s Border Disaster*
on Day One, DES MOINES REGISTER (Jan. 3, 2024), available at
[https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/caucus/2024/01/03/donald-trump-](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/caucus/2024/01/03/donald-trump-joe-biden-border-disaster/72093156007/)
[joe-biden-border-disaster/72093156007/](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/caucus/2024/01/03/donald-trump-joe-biden-border-disaster/72093156007/); TIME, *Read the Full Transcripts of Donald Trump’s*
Interviews with TIME, Apr. 2024, available at [https://time.com/6972022/donald-trump-transcript-](https://time.com/6972022/donald-trump-transcript-2024-election/)
[2024-election/](https://time.com/6972022/donald-trump-transcript-2024-election/) (“This is an invasion of our country. An invasion like probably no country has ever
seen before. They’re coming in by the millions.”).

⁵⁹ *Donald Trump on Illegal Immigrants ‘Poisoning the Blood of Our Country’*, C-SPAN (Dec. 16,
2023), available at [https://www.c-span.org/clip/campaign-2024/donald-trump-on-illegal-](https://www.c-span.org/clip/campaign-2024/donald-trump-on-illegal-immigrants-poisoning-the-blood-of-our-country/5098439)
[immigrants-poisoning-the-blood-of-our-country/5098439](https://www.c-span.org/clip/campaign-2024/donald-trump-on-illegal-immigrants-poisoning-the-blood-of-our-country/5098439).

1 107. At a rally one week before the 2024 election, President Trump described the country
2 as “occupied” by criminal migrants—heaping scorn on “savage” Venezuelan gang members in
3 particular. “We’re not going to have a country any longer. That’s who we’re allowing in. The
4 United States is now an occupied country, but it will soon be an occupied country no longer . . .
5 November 5, 2024 . . . will be Liberation Day in America. . . . I will rescue every city and town
6 that has been invaded and conquered.”⁶⁰

7 108. During his first term in office, President Trump also conflated large groups of
8 immigrants, and sometimes even all of them, with members of the MS-13 gang.⁶¹ In his first State
9 of the Union address, he suggested that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”)
10 program, recipients of which are immigrants first brought to the United States as children many
11 years ago, contributed to the spread of MS-13.⁶²

12 109. President Trump has also falsely claimed that “jails and mental institutions from
13 other countries and gang members right off the streets of the toughest cities of the world are being
14 brought to the United States of America and emptied out into our country.”⁶³ There is no basis for
15 this claim.

16 110. Like Secretary Noem, President Trump has singled out Venezuela for particular
17 opprobrium. He has contended that Venezuelans have “destroyed the fabric of our country.”⁶⁴

19 ⁶⁰ Speech by Donald Trump at Madison Square Garden Presidential Campaign Rally (Oct. 27,
20 2024) at approx. 16:13, *available at* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzVT4YEEYsuI>.

21 ⁶¹ Terry Gross, *Trump Uses MS-13 To ‘Sell Draconian Overhauls of Border Issues,’ Journalist*
22 *Says*, NPR (Feb. 15, 2018), *available at* [https://www.npr.org/2018/02/15/585937834/trump-uses-](https://www.npr.org/2018/02/15/585937834/trump-uses-ms-13-to-sell-draconian-overhauls-of-border-issues-journalist-says)
[ms-13-to-sell-draconian-overhauls-of-border-issues-journalist-says](https://www.npr.org/2018/02/15/585937834/trump-uses-ms-13-to-sell-draconian-overhauls-of-border-issues-journalist-says).

23 ⁶² Liz Robbins, *Why was MS-13 Targeted in Trump’s Speech?*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 31, 2018),
24 *available at* <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/31/nyregion/ms-13-gang-trump.html>.

25 ⁶³ FOX NEWS, *President Donald Trump: We Will Bring Our Country Back*, YOUTUBE (Jan. 22,
26 2025) at approx. 18:26, *available at* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQUmy6gkwWg>.

27 ⁶⁴ *See also* CBS NEWS, *Simulcast – ABC News Presidential Debate*, C-SPAN (Sept. 10, 2024) at
28 approx. 33:40, *available at* [https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/simulcast-abc-news-](https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/simulcast-abc-news-presidential-debate/648383)
[presidential-debate/648383](https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/simulcast-abc-news-presidential-debate/648383) (“They allowed people to come in, drug dealers, to come into our
country, and they’re now in the United States. And told by their countries like Venezuela don’t
ever come back or we’re going to kill you. . . . There’s never been anything done like this at all.
They’ve destroyed the fabric of our country. Millions of people let in.”).

111. President Trump has used dehumanizing language and repeatedly called Venezuelan immigrants “animals”: “[E]veryday Americans . . . are living in fear all because [former Vice President] Kamala Harris decided to empty the slums and prison cells of Caracas [Venezuela] and many other places . . . [A]nd we have to live with these animals, but we’re not going to live with them for long, you watch.”⁶⁵ One analysis by Axios of 109 of President Trump’s speeches, debates, and interviews found that he called Venezuelan migrants “criminals” at least seventy times between September 1, 2023 to October 2, 2024.⁶⁶

112. He has alleged that Venezuelan “prisons are . . . at the lowest point in terms of emptiness that they’ve ever been” because Venezuela was “taking their people out of those prisons by the thousands” and sending them to the United States.⁶⁷

113. President Trump has also made disparaging remarks about Latin American countries and people, frequently relying on crude and derogatory stereotypes to stoke fear about immigration.

114. President Trump has also repeatedly “retweeted” avowed white nationalists, such as @WhiteGenocideTM, as well as publicly dined with prominent, self-declared white supremacists, thereby endorsing their racist views and amplifying their racist message.⁶⁸

⁶⁵ FOX 4 DALLAS-FORT WORTH, *Trump Rally in Aurora, Colorado: FULL SPEECH*, YOUTUBE (Oct. 12, 2024) at approx. 41:05, available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xguaneoZ5A; see also NBC NEWS, *Meet the Press*, YOUTUBE (Dec. 8, 2024) at approx. 8:52, available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UsHJWEAj_I (“Did you know that Venezuela their prisons are . . . at the lowest point in terms of emptiness that they’ve ever been? They’re taking their people out of those prisons by the thousands and they’re drop—.”).

⁶⁶ Russell Contreras, Delano Massey, & Erin Davis, *Trump keeps calling Venezuelan and Congolese migrants criminals*, AXIOS (Oct. 5, 2024), available at <https://www.axios.com/2024/10/05/trump-migrants-venezuelan-congolese-rhetoric>.

⁶⁷ NBC NEWS, *Meet the Press*, YOUTUBE (Dec. 8, 2024) at approx. 8:42, available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UsHJWEAj_I.

⁶⁸ Benjy Sarlin, *Donald Trump Retweets Apparent Neo-Nazi Supporter*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 22, 2016), available at <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/donald-trump-tweets-apparent-neo-nazi-supporter-n502136>; Eric Lichtblau, *Trump amplifies racist lies, giving neo-Nazis ‘real power.’ Where are GOP leaders?* USA TODAY (Sep. 23, 2024), available at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2024/09/23/trump-far-right-haitian-immigrants-springfield/75301951007/>.

1 115. The Trump Administration has not shown similar opposition to immigrant
2 populations perceived as white. On the contrary, on February 7, 2025 President Trump signed
3 Executive Order No. 14204, *Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa*, which
4 directs Secretary Noem (among others) to:

5 [T]ake appropriate steps, consistent with law, to prioritize humanitarian
6 relief, including admission and resettlement through the United States
7 Refugee Admissions Program, for Afrikaners in South Africa who are
8 victims of unjust racial discrimination.

9 116. Trump’s Executive Order to protect white South Africans yet again makes clear that
10 his administration strongly prefers white immigrants over those perceived as non-white.

11 117. Together, all of President Trump’s repeated statements denigrating immigrants, and
12 targeting Venezuelans and TPS holders in particular, have not functioned merely as hateful
13 rhetoric. They have also worked as a call to action for those serving him.

14 **Statements of Trump Surrogates**

15 118. Like President Trump, prominent officials who exerted influence to ensure that
16 DHS’s decision-making process on TPS favored termination also harbor racial animus against
17 immigrants perceived as non-white in general and Venezuelans in particular. These officials have
18 been motivated by their racial animosity to intervene in and influence the TPS decision-making
19 process towards termination.

20 119. For example, Stephen Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, has long
21 expressed support for White Nationalism, “promoted white nationalist literature,” and “pushed
22 racist immigration stories” to the media.⁶⁹ Miller lauded historical immigration laws that imposed
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26 ⁶⁹ Michael Edison Hayden, *Stephen Miller’s Affinity for White Nationalism Revealed in Leaked*
27 *Emails*, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER (Nov. 12, 2019), *available at*
28 <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2019/11/12/stephen-millers-affinity-white-nationalism-revealed-leaked-emails>.

1 quotas based on racist assumptions.⁷⁰ For years, Miller promoted the ideas that non-white
2 immigrants were uniquely violent and targeted Americans with that violence.⁷¹

3 120. Miller has been described as an “early architect[] of the Trump administration’s
4 immigration policies,” and has prioritized curtailing both legal and illegal immigration.⁷² When he
5 was the senior advisor to the President during Trump’s first term in office, Miller repeatedly called
6 DHS officials to urge termination of TPS.⁷³

7 121. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who was purportedly consulted in Secretary
8 Noem’s review of the Venezuela TPS designations, has demonstrated how Trump surrogates
9 respond to his call to action. In 2022, the Senator Rubio advocated *for* the extension of TPS for
10 Venezuela, calling it “absolutely essential” to avoid a “very real death sentence for countless
11 Venezuelans who have fled their country.”⁷⁴ He even co-sponsored legislation to re-designate TPS
12 for Venezuela.⁷⁵ However, more recently, Secretary Rubio embraced President Trump’s racist
13 talking points about Venezuela, espousing in 2024 the “exaggerate[ed]” depiction of Tren de
14

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16 ⁷⁰ Adam Serwer, *Trump’s White-Nationalist Vanguard*, THE ATLANTIC (Nov. 19, 2019), available
17 at <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/11/stephen-miller-alarming-emails/602242/>
18 (“A cache of Miller’s emails . . . show Miller praising racist immigration restrictions from a
19 century ago, while bitterly lamenting the law that repealed them.”).

20 ⁷¹ Nicole Narea, *Stephen Miller sought to link immigrants to crime and terrorism in private emails to Breitbart*, VOX (Nov. 25, 2019), available at <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/11/12/20961458/stephen-miller-white-supremacist-anti-immigrant-emails-breitbart-southern-poverty-law-center>.

21 ⁷² THE CHARLIE KIRK SHOW, *Sweeping Raids, Mass Deportations: Donald Trump’s 2025 Plan to Fix the Border* (Nov. 14, 2023), available at <https://thecharliekirkshow.com/podcasts/the-charlie-kirk-show/sweeping-raids-mass-deportations-donald-trumps-2025>; see also Lauren Villgran, *Who is Stephen Miller, architect of Donald Trump’s mass deportation plans?*, USA TODAY (Nov. 25, 2024), available at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/11/21/stephen-miller-trumps-mass-deportation-architect/76260908007/>; Elliot Spagat, *Trump picks a pair of experienced advisers motivated to carry out his immigration crackdown*, ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS (Nov. 12, 2024), available at <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-deportation-homan-miller-trump-border-abb1a75497d11c978c369cb20016eeeb>.

22 ⁷³ See *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d. at 1098.

23 ⁷⁴ Senators Marco Rubio & Robert Menendez, *Letter to Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas* (Mar. 31, 2022), available at <https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/menendez-rubio-letter-to-dhs-re-venezuela-tps-april12022.pdf>.

24 ⁷⁵ See Venezuela Temporary Protected Status Act of 2021, S. 50, 117th Cong. (2021-2022).

1 Aragua as “an invading criminal army from a prison in Venezuela that has spread their brutality
2 and chaos to U.S. cities and small towns.”⁷⁶

3 **The Trump Administration’s Previous Racist Attempts to End TPS**

4 122. This is not the first time that an administration guided by President Trump has
5 embarked on an unlawful campaign to destroy TPS in violation of the APA and Equal Protection
6 Clause.

7 123. During President Trump’s first term, every federal district court to consider the
8 question found “evidence that President Trump harbors an animus against non-white, non-
9 European aliens which influenced his (and thereby the Secretary’s) decision to end the TPS
10 designation[s]” for El Salvador, Haiti, Sudan, and Nicaragua in 2017 and 2018.⁷⁷

11 124. The evidence adduced in those cases further illustrates that the conduct challenged
12 here is part of a premeditated effort to terminate TPS without regard to applicable law or
13 standards, and to further a racist agenda.⁷⁸

14 125. Political appointees during the first Trump administration also sought to paint TPS
15 holders as criminals and to manufacture evidence to support this impossible claim—to justify the
16 termination of designations, and the undermining of the TPS program. Subordinates of then-DHS
17 Secretary John Kelly covertly sought data on the number of Haitian TPS holders who committed

18 ⁷⁶ Charles Larratt-Smith & John Polga-Hecimovich, *How Much of a Threat is Tren de Aragua in*
19 *the U.S.?*, AMERICAS QUARTERLY (Dec. 9, 2024), *available at*
20 <https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/>.

21 ⁷⁷ *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1100; *see also Centro Presente*, 332 F. Supp. at 415 (“find[ing] that
22 the combination of a disparate impact on particular racial groups, statements of animus by people
23 plausibly alleged to be involved in the decision-making process, and an allegedly unreasoned shift
24 in policy sufficient to allege plausibly that a discriminatory purpose was a motivating factor in a
decision” to terminate TPS for Haiti, El Salvador and Honduras); *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 372
(finding that “evidence of [White House] animus toward non-white immigrants, including
Haitians specifically, raises at the very least serious questions going to the merits of Plaintiffs’
equal protection claim” challenging the termination of TPS for Haiti).

25 ⁷⁸ *See, e.g., Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1101–04 (describing how, *i.e.*, “the record evidence
26 indicates that, after receiving Decision Memos from career DHS employees, higher-level DHS
27 employees – *i.e.*, the political appointees – were ‘repackaging’ the memos in order to get to the
President/White House’s desired result of terminating TPS”; and how “Acting Secretary Duke
28 expressly acknowledged that the terminations of TPS designations were ‘a strong break with past
practice,’ [citation omitted] - designed to fit the President’s objectives on immigration which
would put ‘America first.’”); *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 322.

1 crimes and relied on public assistance, despite that virtually any criminal record is disqualifying
2 for TPS.⁷⁹ A federal district court found that “[t]he information sought by the Secretary [Kelly]
3 coincides with racial stereotypes – *i.e.*, that non-whites commit crimes and are on the public
4 dole.”⁸⁰

5 126. During President Trump’s first term in office, the pressure from President Trump
6 and the White House into the DHS Secretary’s TPS decision-making was less evident and public
7 than here. The federal district court nonetheless found that “Acting Secretary Duke’s writings
8 suggest that she, in her role at DHS, was largely carrying out or conforming with a predetermined
9 presidential agenda to end TPS.”⁸¹ There, Acting Secretary Duke, in separate personal memos,
10 expressed that her TPS decision-making was based on “an America first view,” a term that
11 invoked then-President Trump’s racist views preferring immigration from majority-white
12 European countries.⁸² Here, by contrast, Secretary Noem has included President Trump’s
13 “America First” objectives expressly in the published Federal Register Notice terminating TPS.

14 **THE TERMINATION OF TPS STATUS WOULD IMPOSE**
15 **EXTRAORDINARY AND IRREPARABLE HARM ON TPS HOLDERS, THEIR**
16 **FAMILIES, AND THEIR COMMUNITIES**

17 127. More than 600,000 TPS holders will lose the TPS status they were scheduled to
18 have until October 2026 as a result of Defendants’ vacatur. More than 350,000 of them stand to
19 lose their employment authorization as soon as April 2, 2025 and their legal status on April 7,
20 2025 as a result of the termination of the 2023 Venezuela Designation. The scale of the harm
21 wrought by Defendants’ actions to eliminate TPS protection for Venezuelans will be massive if
22 not reversed.

23
24
25 ⁷⁹ *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1104–05; *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 307–09.

26 ⁸⁰ *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1105.

27 ⁸¹ *Id.* at 10099.

28 ⁸² Brief of Amici Curiae, The Anti-Defamation League, et. al, *Ramos v. Nielson*, Case No. 18-16981, ECF No. 31 at 21 (9th Cir Feb. 7, 2019).

1 **Loss of Legal Status, Employment Authorization and Drivers Licenses**

2 128. TPS holders are facing the imminent loss of legal status, and as a result, are already
3 being forced to make the impossible choice whether to return to a country in crisis, remain in the
4 United States without lawful immigration status, or uproot themselves again to try to find refuge
5 in some third country. For most, this is not a choice at all. Venezuelan TPS holders cannot safely
6 return to Venezuela.⁸³ Moreover, due to the lack of diplomatic relations between the United States
7 and Venezuela, TPS holders without valid passports lack the requisite documentation to travel
8 voluntarily to Venezuela or a third country.

9 129. Without TPS, many Venezuelans will be at immediate risk of deportation to
10 Venezuela—a country which has experienced an exodus of one-fourth of its population in the past
11 decade. Some Venezuelan TPS holders may currently be seeking other legal avenues to remain in
12 this country (such as asylum or adjustment of status). However, due to the yearslong asylum
13 backlog, affirmative asylum applications remain long-pending, and do not guarantee an individual
14 protection from either detention or deportation in the interim. Defendants' actions also threaten
15 detention and deportation for TPS holders who do not presently have alternative paths to legal
16 status, even though TPS was established expressly to serve this population—individuals who
17 cannot safely return but may not fit the stringent legal requirements of asylum. The loss of TPS in
18 some instances also limits the possibility of acquiring a permanent legal status for which an
19 individual would otherwise be eligible, but for which present legal status is a prerequisite.⁸⁴

20 130. Venezuelan TPS holders also face the prospect of losing employment authorization.
21 This may result in their summary dismissal from their place of work, jeopardizing their and their
22 families' financial stability. Without stable employment, some TPS holders risk losing their homes

23 ⁸³ See, e.g., *Venezuela*, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS (Sep. 24, 2024),
24 available at [https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Venezuela.html)
25 [Country-Information-Pages/Venezuela.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Venezuela.html) (“Do not travel to Venezuela due to the high risk of
26 wrongful detentions, terrorism, kidnapping, the arbitrary enforcement of local laws, crime, civil
unrest, poor health infrastructure.”).

27 ⁸⁴ See Temporary Protected Status: An Overview, AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL (Jan. 2025),
28 available at [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/temporary_protected_stat](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/temporary_protected_status_-_an_overview_1-16-2025.pdf)
[us_-_an_overview_1-16-2025.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/temporary_protected_status_-_an_overview_1-16-2025.pdf) (noting some TPS recipients may be eligible to adjust status).

1 or other material assets, leading to further economic harm. Many Venezuelan TPS holders also
2 face the imminent loss of their drivers' licenses and, with them, their mobility and freedom of
3 movement, because drivers' licenses are limited to those with legal status in many states.⁸⁵ And
4 because the Secretary's termination decision goes into effect so quickly, Venezuelan TPS holders
5 have been afforded almost no time to make alternative arrangements for themselves and their
6 families, including by applying for other forms of immigration relief, employment authorization,
7 or drivers' licenses.

8 **Other Harms to TPS Holders: Family Separation, Psychological Harm, and Stigma**

9 131. The loss of legal status renders TPS holders vulnerable to separation from U.S.
10 citizen children and other loved ones. There are many Venezuelan TPS holders in mixed-status
11 families—with children, spouses, partners, elderly parents, and other family members who are
12 U.S. citizens or Green Card holders. These TPS holders face the risk of being forced to leave their
13 family members behind, or bringing their U.S. citizen children (or other family members) to a
14 country in economic and political ruin, where severe repression is pervasive.

15 132. Venezuelan TPS holders have been experiencing tremendous emotional and
16 psychological harm since the challenged decisions. This has resulted in heightened anxiety,
17 trauma, insomnia, and depression, in some cases severe enough to result in acts of self-harm. The
18 psychological harms resulting from Defendants' actions will only increase as the effective date
19 approaches.

20 133. Venezuelan TPS holders have also suffered the additional constitutional harm of
21 being subject to an administrative action motivated by racial, ethnic, or national-origin
22 discrimination. Many describe the emotional pain of being subjected to racist attacks by high-
23 ranking U.S. government officials. Some also live in fear of leaving the house, speaking Spanish,
24 or disclosing their nationality due to the racist targeting of Venezuelans and other nonwhite
25 migrants.

26
27 ⁸⁵ See, e.g., California DMV, REAL ID Checklist, *available at*
28 <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/real-id/real-id-checklist/>
(listing documents showing immigration status as requirements for REAL ID driver's licenses).

1 **Harm to Plaintiffs**

2 134. **Plaintiff National TPS Alliance** has over 84,000 Venezuelan TPS holder members.
3 These members are anxious and desperate. Many are making plans to sell homes and cars, end
4 leases, and collect their belongings in preparation to leave the country. But they do not believe
5 they can safely return to Venezuela because it remains politically unstable and repressive, and
6 because the economy is in total collapse. If the United States will not allow them to stay, they do
7 not know where they will go or what they will do. Among them:

8 a) NTPSA member **A.V.** has TPS under Venezuela's 2023 designation. He
9 lives in Alabama and works full-time on the night shift at an auto parts manufacturer. As the
10 2024 presidential election drew near, A.V. began struggling with severe anxiety and fears
11 that he would lose his TPS status. News reports about President Trump's plans to deport all
12 immigrants awakened a deep sense of dread in him, as he is terrified to return to Venezuela.
13 He faces the April 2025 loss of his job, driver's license, and legal right to remain in the
14 United States. His uncle, uncle's wife, and their three-year old son all rely on TPS. Another
15 cousin relies on TPS, and lives with her two U.S. citizen children.

16 b) NTPSA member **M.R.** has TPS under Venezuela's 2021 designation. She
17 lives in West Virginia and works two jobs—full-time in the health care sector and part-time
18 at McDonalds. She is the sole provider for her two minor children and elderly mother. As a
19 result of Defendants' actions, in September 2025 M.R. faces the loss of her legal status,
20 work authorization, and driver's license, as well as health care for her chronically ill
21 daughter and mother. Her twelve-year-old daughter and elderly mother also rely on TPS for
22 their legal status; her five-year-old daughter is a U.S. citizen and faces the prospect of being
23 separated from her family if their TPS is terminated.

24 c) NTPSA member **Laura Guerrero** has TPS under Venezuela's 2021
25 designation. She has been waiting over nine years with a pending asylum application. She
26 fears being in limbo—with limited access to employment, without legal status, and at risk of
27 deportation if her TPS is terminated. Her elder daughter, a TPS holder, is currently in her
28 first year as an undergraduate at a prestigious music school but stands to lose the full

1 scholarship that TPS affords her. Laura has suffered panic attacks since the vacatur
2 announcement.

3 d) NTPSA member **C.D.**, a 60-year old father of three, holds TPS under
4 Venezuela's 2021 designation. He lives in Houston, Texas with his wife, where they own
5 their own home. They have consistently paid their taxes. C.D. works for a temporary
6 staffing agency and was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. If he loses his TPS in
7 September 2025 he would lose his job and be unable to pay for his mortgage and health
8 care, which would be economically devastating for him and his wife. Losing TPS would
9 also expose C.D. to risk of being deported from the United States, which would inflict many
10 harms, including preventing him from accessing the medical care he needs to treat his
11 cancer.

12 135. **Plaintiff Mariela González**, a long-time educator, has lived in the United States for
13 fourteen years and is currently employed by an urban school district. She faces termination of her
14 legal status and work authorization in September 2025 as a result of Defendants' actions. She
15 lacks a valid passport and could not legally travel even if she could safely return to Venezuela,
16 which she cannot. Moreover, all of Mariela's immediate family—her parents, siblings, and
17 nephews—reside in the United States and have permanent status.

18 136. **Plaintiff Freddy Jose Arape Rivas** fled Venezuela due to worsening conditions,
19 including rising repression and violence against opposition members, and a collapsing economy
20 where it became impossible to obtain basic necessities. He works in the IT sector in Texas. He
21 will lose his legal status, employment authorization, and driver's license in April 2025 as a result
22 of Defendants' actions. He also fears he will lose the possibility of an H1B visa, for which he has
23 a pending application through his employer, because he has been told he will no longer be eligible
24 without lawful status.

25 137. **Plaintiff M.H.** lives in Tennessee, graduated from a Venezuelan university with a
26 nursing degree, and is currently the primary caregiver for her two children—the elder a TPS
27 holder, and the younger a U.S. citizen with severe asthma. M.H.'s husband works full-time for a
28 government subcontractor. M.H.'s two-year-old son faces an uncertain fate should TPS be

1 terminated—unable to live safely in Venezuela, particularly with a serious and chronic health
2 condition, but facing the possibility of being separated from his mother and sister following the
3 termination of their TPS in April 2025 as a result of Defendants’ actions. M.H. has a mandatory
4 check-in with ICE in May 2025, the month after she is scheduled to lose her TPS.

5 138. **Plaintiff Cecilia González Herrera** came to the United States in 2017, at the age of
6 18, and has lived her entire adult life in this country. She was a student activist in Venezuela, and
7 now attends university and works as a voting rights advocate in Florida. Her mental health has
8 suffered as a result of Defendants’ actions, and she faces the loss of the ability to pay in-state
9 tuition for university, which TPS affords her. She has also abandoned the prospect of postgraduate
10 education as a result of the uncertainty created by the termination announcement. And because of
11 Defendants’ repeated statements targeting Venezuelans as “dirtbags” and gang members, she feels
12 unwanted in a country that has been her home for eight years.

13 139. **Plaintiff Alba Cecilia Purica Hernandez** is a childcare provider in San Leandro,
14 California. Her deportation proceedings were terminated on account of her TPS registration.
15 However, she risks losing her legal status and employment authorization in April 2025 as a result
16 of Defendants’ actions. She cannot safely return to Venezuela. Nor can she practically return as
17 she lacks a valid Venezuelan passport. Alba has felt sad, scared and adrift since the announcement
18 of the termination of TPS for Venezuela, and feels that the decision is reflective of a perception at
19 the highest levels of the U.S. government that Venezuelans and non-white migrants are less than
20 human.

21 140. **Plaintiff E.R.** and her twelve-year-old daughter live in New York where E.R. works
22 the night shift in a makeup packaging factory to be able to take her daughter to and from school.
23 E.R. has legal status and employment authorization only through TPS and risks losing her
24 employment on April 2, 2025 as a result of Defendants’ actions. She is the sole provider for her
25 twelve-year-old daughter, who also has TPS. E.R. also requires medical care which she would not
26 be able to get in Venezuela, as a result an accident in which she suffered an injury which required
27 her to get twenty staples in her head. She and her daughter have a mandatory check-in with ICE in
28 June 2025, two months after they are scheduled to lose their TPS status.

1 141. **Plaintiff Hendrina Vivas Castillo** is a mother and former business owner who
2 works as a delivery driver in Los Angeles, California. In Venezuela, the economic crisis forced
3 her to shut down her business and she faced mounting political repression, including the arrest of
4 her business's co-owner. She risks losing her TPS and employment authorization in April 2025.
5 Hendrina is terrified of going back to Venezuela and does not know what she will do if her TPS is
6 terminated.

7 **Harm to Communities and the Public**

8 142. TPS holders are an integral part of the economic and social fabric of U.S.
9 communities, and they give back to the country in countless ways. Venezuelan TPS holders are
10 health care providers, factory workers, engineers, agricultural workers, childcare providers,
11 educators, and students. They are active in civic life and volunteer at schools, neighborhood and
12 work organizations, and religious institutions. They pay federal, state, and local taxes, and support
13 government social welfare programs. Summarily withdrawing hundreds of thousands of people
14 from the workforce will strain the social safety net and have economic repercussions on citizen
15 and noncitizen communities alike.

16 143. Recognizing the diverse public benefits of designating countries for TPS when they
17 are in the midst of crisis, the mayors of 33 cities urged Secretary Mayorkas in 2023 to extend TPS
18 for Venezuela and other countries. Among the public benefits these local leaders emphasized were
19 adding eligible workers to the workforce, taking pressure off the social safety net by allowing
20 beneficiaries to secure work and be self-sufficient, and helping to clear the asylum backlog.⁸⁶

21 144. TPS for Venezuela is serving the exact purpose intended by Congress—providing
22 nationality-based humanitarian immigration relief due to a country's severe instability, regardless
23 of whether individuals meet the narrow eligibility requirements for other forms of humanitarian
24 protection, such as asylum.⁸⁷

25 _____
26 ⁸⁶ Letter from Cities for Action Mayors to Secretaries Mayorkas and Blinken (Sept. 6, 2023),
27 available at https://www.citiesforaction.us/expand_tps_protections.

28 ⁸⁷ See generally Brief of Amici Curiae, Immigration Law Scholars, *Ramos v. Nielson*, Case No.
18-16981, ECF No. 30 at 2 (9th Cir Feb. 7, 2019).

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

FIRST CLAIM

Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (Vacatur)

(Against All Defendants)

145. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs.

146. The Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*, ensures that federal agencies are accountable to the public by providing a “right of review” to any “person suffering legal wrong because of agency action, or adversely affected or aggrieved by agency action.” 5 U.S.C. 702. Judicial review is generally limited to “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court.” 5 U.S.C. 704.

147. The APA empowers the federal courts to “hold unlawful and set aside agency actions, findings, and conclusions” that are “arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law,” “in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations,” or “without observance of procedure required by law.” 5 U.S.C. 706(2)(A), (C), (D). The right of review under the APA includes a right to judicial review of “legal question[s] of statutory authority,” *In re Border Infrastructure Env’t Litig.*, 915 F.3d 1213, 1222 (9th Cir. 2019), and review of “executive agency action for procedural correctness.” *FCC v. Fox Television Stations, Inc.*, 556 U.S. 502, 513 (2009). To engage in procedurally appropriate decision-making, an agency must ordinarily “display awareness that it *is* changing position.” *Id.* at 515. Agencies “may not . . . depart from a prior policy *sub silentio* or simply disregard rules that are still on the books.” *Id.* And the APA requires a “more detailed justification . . . for disregarding facts and circumstances that underlay . . . the prior policy.” *Id.* at 515–16.

148. Defendants’ February 3, 2025 vacatur of the TPS extension for Venezuela constitutes “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court” pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 704, because the Defendants’ vacatur has resulted in all of the Individual Plaintiffs and tens of thousands of members of Plaintiff NTPSA losing TPS protection until October 2026,

1 which had been granted to them pursuant to the January 17, 2025 extension, “automatically and
2 without further notice or right of appeal.” 8 C.F.R. 244.19.

3 149. Defendants’ vacatur of the TPS extension decision they had made on January 17,
4 2025 exceeded their statutory authority and was arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law,
5 pretextual, and deviated from past practice, including because, among other things:

6 a) The TPS statute carefully regulates the length of TPS extensions, the
7 conditions under which they may be terminated, and the timetable for doing so. Defendants
8 had no authority to annul a TPS extension under the timetable and procedures they utilized
9 here.

10 b) Defendants objected to the January 2025 extension for allowing 2021 TPS
11 holders to re-register under the 2023 extension, but failed to consider that 2021 TPS holders
12 were necessarily eligible for TPS under the 2023 designation as well. *See San Luis Obispo*
13 *Mothers for Peace v. United States Nuclear Regul. Comm’n*, 100 F.4th 1039, 1055–56 (9th
14 Cir. 2024) (“An agency action is arbitrary and capricious if . . . the agency has . . . entirely
15 failed to consider an important aspect of the problem.”).

16 c) Defendants’ decision rested on a misinterpretation of the TPS statute’s
17 flexible registration requirements and failed to “consider the alternatives that are within the
18 ambit of the existing policy” before vacating the January 17, 2025 extension in its entirety.
19 *DHS v Regents of the Univ. of Cal.*, 591 U.S. 1, 30 (2020) (cleaned up); *see Fed. Election*
20 *Comm’n v. Akins*, 524 U.S. 11, 25 (1998) (“If a reviewing court agrees that the agency
21 misinterpreted the law, it will set aside the agency's action and remand the case.”).

22 d) The decision assumed that TPS designations, including the 2023 Venezuela
23 Designation, are themselves illegal.

24 e) The decision assumed that TPS holders are present in the United States
25 illegally.

26 f) The decision presupposed that prior TPS designations or extensions can be
27 rescinded merely because of policy disagreements between administrations.
28

g) The decision occurred under circumstances and a timeline that reflect that it was pretextual. *Cf. Dep't of Com. v. New York*, 139 S. Ct. 2551, 2575 (2019) (reversing agency action because stated reason for decision was pretextual).

4 h) To the extent Defendants engaged in any process, it was so deficient as to
5 amount to no process at all, defeating the purpose of the TPS statute and deviating from past
6 practice and rules regarding the applicable process.

7 150. Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable injury from the unlawful vacatur.

8 SECOND CLAIM

9 **Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (Termination)**

10	(Against All Defendants)
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1 151. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained
2 in the preceding paragraphs.

152. The order terminating the 2023 TPS designation for Venezuela constitutes “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court” under 5 U.S.C. 704 because it will result in TPS holders’ loss of TPS “automatically and without further notice or right of appeal.” 8 C.F.R. 244.19.

153. Defendants' termination of the 2023 Venezuela Designation exceeded their statutory authority and was arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual, and deviated from past practice, including because, among other things:

20 a) The decision assumed that TPS designations, including the 2023 Venezuela
21 Designation, are illegal.

b) The decision assumed that TPS holders are present in the United States illegally.

c) The research, consultation, and review process leading up to the decision deviated dramatically from past practice without explanation.

d) The decision occurred under circumstances and a timeline that reflect that it was pretextual. *Cf. Dep't of Com.*, 139 S. Ct. at 2575 (reversing agency action because stated reason for decision was pretextual).

1 e) To the extent Defendants engaged in any process, it was so deficient as to
2 amount to no process at all, defeating the purpose of the TPS statute.

3 154. Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable injury from the unlawful termination.

4 **THIRD CLAIM**

5 **Violation of the Equal Protection Guarantee of the**

6 **Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment**

7 **(Against All Defendants by All Plaintiffs)**

8 155. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained
9 in the preceding paragraphs.

10 156. The Fifth Amendment contains an implicit guarantee of equal protection that
11 invalidates any official action that in part reflects a racially discriminatory intent or purpose.
12 Classifications based on race, ethnicity, or national origin receive exacting scrutiny, and even
13 facially neutral policies and practices will be held unconstitutional when they reflect a pattern
14 unexplainable on grounds other than race. *Bolling v. Sharpe*, 347 U.S. 497, 499 (1954); *Vill. of*
15 *Arlington Heights v. Metro. Hous. Dev. Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 265–66 (1977).

16 157. Defendants' decisions to vacate the January TPS extension for Venezuela, and to
17 terminate the 2023 Venezuela Designation, are unconstitutional because they were motivated, at
18 least in part, by intentional discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.

19 158. Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable injury resulting from the illegal vacatur and the
20 arbitrary termination of the 2023 Venezuela Designation.

21 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

22 Plaintiffs ask this Court to grant the following relief:

23 1. Declare that Defendants' vacatur of the January 17, 2025 TPS extension for
24 Venezuela and Defendants' purported termination of TPS for Venezuela on February 5, 2025 were
25 unlawful under the APA and unconstitutional under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth
26 Amendment and;

27 2. Declare that Defendants have no authority to vacate a TPS extension under 8 U.S.C.
28 1254a;

1 3. Declare that the January 17, 2025 TPS extension for Venezuela remains in effect
2 under the terms specified in that extension, 90 Fed. Reg. 5961;

3 4. “Set aside” Defendants’ vacatur order of February 3, 2025, and termination order of
4 February 5, 2025, as beyond Defendants’ authority and/or unlawful under the APA;

5 5. Postpone or stay the vacatur order of February 3, 2025, and termination order of
6 February 5, 2025, from taking effect or being put into effect;

7 6. Enjoin and restrain all Defendants, and their officers, agents, servants, employees,
8 attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with any of them from
9 enforcing the vacatur order of February 3, 2025, and termination order of February 5, 2025;

10 7. Order Defendants to take all steps necessary to ensure that the extension of TPS
11 issued on January 17, 2025 remains in full force and effect;

12 8. Grant an award of attorneys’ fees and costs; and

13 9. Grant any other and further relief that this Court may deem fit and proper.

14 Date: February 19, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

15 ACLU FOUNDATION
16 OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

17 /s/* Emilou MacLean

18 Emilou MacLean
19 Michelle (Minju) Y. Cho

20 CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION LAW AND
21 POLICY, UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

22 /s/ Ahilan T. Arulanantham

23 Ahilan T. Arulanantham
24 Stephany Martinez Tiffer

25 ACLU FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN
26 CALIFORNIA

27 /s/ Eva L. Bitran

28 Eva L. Bitran

NATIONAL DAY LABORER
ORGANIZING NETWORK

/s/ Jessica Karp Bansal

Jessica Karp Bansal
Lauren Michel Wilfong (pro hac vice
forthcoming)

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

* Filer attests that all signatories listed, and on whose behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the
filing's content and have authorized the filing.

This civil cover sheet does not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers. The information on this form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket. Instructions are on the reverse of this form.

I. PLAINTIFF(S)

National TPS Alliance, et al. [see attachment]

County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff:
Leave blank in cases where United States is plaintiff. Los Angeles

Attorney or Pro Se Litigant Information (*Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number*)
ACLU Foundation of Northern California, 39 Drumm St., San Francisco, CA 94111; (415) 621-2493; Emilou MacLean (See attachment for additional counsel).

DEFENDANT(S)

KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as Secretary of Homeland Security, et al.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant:
Use ONLY in cases where United States is plaintiff.

Defendant's Attorney's Name and Contact Information (*if known*)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (*Place an "X" in One Box Only*)

☐ U.S. Government Plaintiff

☐ Federal Question
(*U.S. Government Not a Party*)

☒ U.S. Government Defendant

☐ Diversity

III. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Statute under which you are filing: (*Use jurisdictional statutes only for diversity*)
5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706; 28 U.S.C. § 2201; Article III; Fifth Amendment

Brief description of case: Unlawful vacatur and termination of TPS

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (*Place an "X" in One Box Only*)

CONTRACT	TORTS		FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury -Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury – Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS HABEAS CORPUS <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee– Conditions of Confinement	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC § 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC § 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC § 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent–Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS–Third Party 26 U.S.C. § 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC § 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities– Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities–Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education				

V. ORIGIN (*Place an "X" in One Box Only*)

☒ Original Proceeding ☐ Removed from State Court ☐ Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ Reinstated or Reopened ☐ Transferred from Another District ☐ Multidistrict Litigation–Transfer ☐ Multidistrict Litigation–Direct File

VI. FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY:
CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES
(*Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant*)

Plaintiff	Defendant
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen of California
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen of Another State
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In California
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Nation

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT

☐ Check if the complaint contains a **jury demand**.
☐ Check if the complaint contains a **monetary demand**. Amount:
☐ Check if the complaint seeks **class action** status under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.
☒ Check if the complaint seeks a **nationwide injunction** or Administrative Procedure Act vacatur.

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) OR MDL CASE

Provide case name(s), number(s), and presiding judge(s). Ramos et al. v. Nielsen, et al., No. 3:18-cv-1554

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2

(*Place an "X" in One Box Only*) ☒ SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND ☐ SAN JOSE ☐ EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

ATTACHMENT TO CIVIL COVER SHEET

Plaintiffs:

NATIONAL TPS ALLIANCE, MARIELA GONZÁLEZ, FREDDY JOSE ARAPE RIVAS, M.H., CECILIA DANIELA GONZÁLEZ HERRERA, ALBA CECILIA PURICA HERNÁNDEZ, E.R., and HENDRINA VIVAS CASTILLO

Defendants:

NOEM, KRISTI, in her official capacity as Secretary of Homeland Security, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
15 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

16 NATIONAL TPS ALLIANCE; MARIELA
GONZALEZ; FREDDY ARAPE RIVAS;
17 M.H.; CECILIA GONZALEZ HERRERA;
ALBA PURICA HERNANDEZ; E.R.;
18 HENDRINA VIVAS CASTILLO; VILES
DORSAINVIL; A.C.A.; SHERIKA BLANC;
19 G.S.;

20 Plaintiffs,

21 v.

22 KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as
Secretary of Homeland Security; UNITED
23 STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY; UNITED STATES OF
24 AMERICA;

25 Defendants.
26
27

Case No. 3:25-cv-1766-EMC

**DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF APPEAL
(PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION APPEAL)**

28 DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF APPEAL
No. 3:25-cv-1766-EMC

ER1462

1 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that all named Defendants hereby appeal to the United States Court of
2 Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from the Court's March 31, 2025 order (ECF No. 93), granting Plaintiffs'
3 motion for postponement under 5 U.S.C. § 705. This appeal involves an interlocutory order under Ninth
4 Circuit R. 3-3(a).

5 Dated: April 1, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for the Defendants

28 DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF APPEAL
No. 3:25-cv-1766-EMC

ER1463

**U.S. District Court
California Northern District (San Francisco)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 3:25-cv-01766-EMC**

National TPS Alliance et al v. Noem et al
Assigned to: Judge Edward M Chen
Cause: 05:702 Administrative Procedure Act

Date Filed: 02/19/2025
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 890 Other Statutory Actions
Jurisdiction: Federal Question

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Defendant

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LEAD ATTORNEY
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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
02/19/2025	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against Kristi Noem, United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America (Filing fee \$ 405, receipt number ACANDC-20368189.). Injunction against the US government/official or APA vacatur requested. Filed by Alba Purica Hernandez, Freddy Arape Rivas, E.R., Mariela Gonzalez, Hendrina Vivas Castillo, National TPS Alliance, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet)(MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	<u>2</u>	Proposed Summons. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	<u>3</u>	Proposed Summons. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	<u>4</u>	Proposed Summons. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	<u>5</u>	Rule 7.1 Disclosures by National TPS Alliance identifying Other Affiliate Central American Resource Center of California for National TPS Alliance. <i>And Certificate of Interested Entities Or Persons</i> (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	<u>6</u>	Certificate of Interested Entities by Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)

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02/19/2025	7	CONSENT/DECLINATION to Proceed Before a US Magistrate Judge by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo.. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	8	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Stephany Martinez Tiffer on behalf of National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo (Martinez Tiffer, Stephany) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	9	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Michelle Young Cho on behalf of National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo (Cho, Michelle) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	10	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Lauren Michel Wilfong on behalf of National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo (Wilfong, Lauren) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	11	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Eva Lucia Bitran on behalf of National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo (Bitran, Eva) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	12	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Jessica Karp Bansal on behalf of National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo (Bansal, Jessica) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	13	ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION to Proceed Under Pseudonym re 1 Complaint, filed by M.H., E.R.. Responses due by 2/24/2025. (Attachments: # 1 Proposed Order, # 2 Declaration of Emilou MacLean, # 3 Declaration of E.R., # 4 Declaration of M.H.) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	14	MOTION for leave to appear in Pro Hac Vice (Filing fee \$ 328, receipt number ACANDC-20368602.) filed by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Wilfong, Lauren) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/19/2025)
02/19/2025	38	<p>Case assigned to Judge Edward M Chen.</p> <p>Counsel for plaintiff or the removing party is responsible for serving the Complaint or Notice of Removal, Summons and the assigned judge's standing orders and all other new case documents upon the opposing parties. For information, visit <i>E-Filing A New Civil Case</i> at http://cand.uscourts.gov/ecf/caseopening.</p> <p>Standing orders can be downloaded from the court's web page at www.cand.uscourts.gov/judges. Upon receipt, the summons will be issued and returned electronically. A scheduling order will be sent by Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) within two business days. (kam2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 2/19/2025) (Entered: 02/21/2025)</p>
02/20/2025	15	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Ahilan Thevanesan Arulanantham on behalf of National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo (Arulanantham, Ahilan) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)

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02/20/2025	16	MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. Motion Hearing set for 3/27/2025 10:00 AM before Judge ABC. Responses due by 3/6/2025. Replies due by 3/13/2025. (Attachments: # 1 Proposed Order)(MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	17	Declaration of A.V. in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	18	Declaration of Arape Rivas in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	19	Declaration of Adelys Ferro in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	20	Declaration of E.R. in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	21	Declaration of David Card in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	22	Declaration of Elliott Young in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	23	Declaration of Melanie Morten in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	24	Declaration of Santiago Perez in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	25	Declaration of Stacy Tolchin in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)

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02/20/2025	26	Declaration of Steven Dudley in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	27	Declaration of Watson and Veuger in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	28	Please disregard. Correct Document 64 Declaration of Gonzalez in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) Modified on 3/7/2025 (mbc, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	29	Declaration of Gonzalez Herrera in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	30	Declaration of Katherine Greenslade in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	31	Declaration of Guerrero in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	32	Declaration of M.H. in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	33	Declaration of M.R. in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	34	Declaration of Palma Jimenez in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/20/2025)
02/20/2025	35	Declaration of Purica Hernandez in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed byNational TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas,

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		M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/20/2025) (Entered: 02/21/2025)
02/21/2025	36	Declaration of Vivas Castillo in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/21/2025) (Entered: 02/21/2025)
02/21/2025	37	Declaration of Emilou MacLean in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action filed by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit 1, # 2 Exhibit 2, # 3 Exhibit 3, # 4 Exhibit 4, # 5 Exhibit 5, # 6 Exhibit 6, # 7 Exhibit 7, # 8 Exhibit 8, # 9 Exhibit 9, # 10 Exhibit 10, # 11 Exhibit 11, # 12 Exhibit 12, # 13 Exhibit 13, # 14 Exhibit 14, # 15 Exhibit 15, # 16 Exhibit 16, # 17 Exhibit 17, # 18 Exhibit 18, # 19 Exhibit 19, # 20 Exhibit 20, # 21 Exhibit 21, # 22 Exhibit 22, # 23 Exhibit 23, # 24 Exhibit 24, # 25 Exhibit 25, # 26 Exhibit 26, # 27 Exhibit 27, # 28 Exhibit 28, # 29 Exhibit 29, # 30 Exhibit 30, # 31 Exhibit 31, # 32 Exhibit 32, # 33 Exhibit 33, # 34 Exhibit 34, # 35 Exhibit 35)(Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/21/2025) (Entered: 02/21/2025)
02/21/2025	39	Initial Case Management Scheduling Order with ADR Deadlines: Case Management Statement due by 5/13/2025. Initial Case Management Conference set for 5/20/2025 01:30 AM in San Jose, - Videoconference Only. (kam2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 2/21/2025) (Entered: 02/21/2025)
02/21/2025		Electronic filing error re: 2 Proposed Summons, 3 Proposed Summons, 4 Proposed Summons filed by Hendrina Vivas Castillo, National TPS Alliance, Alba Purica Hernandez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, E.R., Mariela Gonzalez. Please list all defendants on ONE summons and re-file. If needed, parties can be listed on an attachment page(es). (slh, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 2/21/2025) (Entered: 02/21/2025)
02/24/2025	40	CLERK'S NOTICE SCHEDULING MOTION HEARING. Motion Hearing as to 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action set for 3/27/2025, at 1:30 PM in San Francisco, Courtroom 05, 17th Floor before Judge Edward M Chen. ALL COUNSEL PARTICIPATING IN THE HEARING ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE IN COURTROOM 5, 17TH FLOOR NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM TO CHECK-IN WITH THE COURTROOM DEPUTY. <i>(This is a text-only entry generated by the court. There is no document associated with this entry.)</i> (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 2/24/2025) (Entered: 02/24/2025)
02/24/2025	41	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Lauren Bryant on behalf of United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem (Bryant, Lauren) (Filed on 2/24/2025) (Entered: 02/24/2025)
02/24/2025	42	Proposed Summons. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 2/24/2025) (Entered: 02/24/2025)
02/24/2025	43	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Sarah L Vuong on behalf of United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem (Vuong, Sarah) (Filed on 2/24/2025) (Entered: 02/24/2025)

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02/24/2025	44	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Luz Restrepo on behalf of United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem (Restrepo, Luz) (Filed on 2/24/2025) (Entered: 02/24/2025)
02/24/2025	45	MOTION to Shorten Time <i>AND SETTING SCHEDULE RE: PLAINTIFFS MOTION TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE OF EFFECTIVE ACTION (ECF 16)</i> filed by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Attachments: # 1 Proposed Order GRANTING PLAINTIFFS ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME AND SETTING SCHEDULE)(Arulanantham, Ahilan) (Filed on 2/24/2025) (Entered: 02/24/2025)
02/24/2025	46	Declaration of AHILAN T. ARULANANTHAM in Support of 45 MOTION to Shorten Time <i>AND SETTING SCHEDULE RE: PLAINTIFFS MOTION TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE OF EFFECTIVE ACTION (ECF 16)</i> filed by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit 1)(Related document(s) 45) (Arulanantham, Ahilan) (Filed on 2/24/2025) (Entered: 02/24/2025)
02/25/2025	47	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Catherine Ross on behalf of Kristi Noem (Ross, Catherine) (Filed on 2/25/2025) (Entered: 02/25/2025)
02/25/2025	48	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Anna Dichter on behalf of United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem (Dichter, Anna) (Filed on 2/25/2025) (Entered: 02/25/2025)
02/25/2025	49	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Eric Michael Snyderman on behalf of United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem (Snyderman, Eric) (Filed on 2/25/2025) (Entered: 02/25/2025)
02/25/2025	50	Summons Issued as to Kristi Noem, United States Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Attorney General (hdj, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 2/25/2025) (Entered: 02/25/2025)
02/25/2025	51	ORDER by Judge Edward M. Chen granting 45 Plaintiffs' Motion to Shorten Time. Defendants' opposition shall be filed by 3/3/2025, and Plaintiffs' reply by 3/7/2025. 16 Plaintiffs' motion to postpone shall be heard on Monday, 3/24/2025, at 9:00 a.m. (This is a text-only entry generated by the court. There is no document associated with this entry.) (emclc2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 2/25/2025) (Entered: 02/25/2025)
02/25/2025	52	CLERK'S NOTICE NOTICE RESCHEDULING MOTION HEARING. Motion Hearing as to 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action reset from 3/27/2025 to 3/24/2025, at 9:00 AM in San Francisco, Courtroom 05, 17th Floor before Judge Edward M Chen. ALL COUNSEL PARTICIPATING IN THE HEARING ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE IN COURTROOM 5, 17TH FLOOR NO LATER THAN 8:45 AM TO CHECK-IN WITH THE COURTROOM DEPUTY. <i>(This is a text-only entry generated by the court. There is no document associated with this entry.)</i> (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 2/25/2025) Modified on 2/28/2025 (vla, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 02/25/2025)
02/26/2025	53	Order by Judge Edward M Chen GRANTING 14 Motion for Pro Hac Vice as to Lauren Wilfong. (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 2/26/2025) (Entered: 02/26/2025)
02/28/2025	54	SUMMONS Returned Executed by Alba Purica Hernandez, Freddy Arape Rivas, E.R., Mariela Gonzalez, Hendrina Vivas Castillo, National TPS Alliance, M.H., Cecilia

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		Gonzalez Herrera. Kristi Noem served on 2/26/2025, answer due 4/28/2025. (Bansal, Jessica) (Filed on 2/28/2025) (Entered: 02/28/2025)
02/28/2025	55	SUMMONS Returned Executed by Alba Purica Hernandez, Freddy Arape Rivas, E.R., Mariela Gonzalez, Hendrina Vivas Castillo, National TPS Alliance, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera. United States Department of Homeland Security served on 2/26/2025, answer due 4/28/2025. (Bansal, Jessica) (Filed on 2/28/2025) (Entered: 02/28/2025)
02/28/2025	56	SUMMONS Returned Executed by Alba Purica Hernandez, Freddy Arape Rivas, E.R., Mariela Gonzalez, Hendrina Vivas Castillo, National TPS Alliance, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera. United States of America served on 2/26/2025, answer due 4/28/2025. (Bansal, Jessica) (Filed on 2/28/2025) (Entered: 02/28/2025)
02/28/2025	57	SUMMONS Returned Executed by Alba Purica Hernandez, Freddy Arape Rivas, E.R., Mariela Gonzalez, Hendrina Vivas Castillo, National TPS Alliance, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera. All Defendants. (Bansal, Jessica) (Filed on 2/28/2025) (Entered: 02/28/2025)
02/28/2025	58	Clerk's Notice of Video Recording Request. Video Camera hearing set for 3/24/2025, at 9:00 AM. Objections to Video Recording due 3/7/2025. (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 2/28/2025) (Entered: 02/28/2025)
03/03/2025	59	ERRATA re 37 Declaration in Support,,, <i>CORRECTION OF DOCKET # 37</i> by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Attachments: # 1 Corrected Declaration of Emilou Maclean in Support of Plaintiffs Motion to Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action (replaces Dkt. 37))(MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/3/2025) (Entered: 03/03/2025)
03/03/2025	60	OPPOSITION/RESPONSE (re 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action) filed by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem. (Vuong, Sarah) (Filed on 3/3/2025) (Entered: 03/03/2025)
03/05/2025	61	NOTICE of Appearance filed by William Weiland on behalf of United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem (Weiland, William) (Filed on 3/5/2025) (Entered: 03/05/2025)
03/07/2025	62	MOTION for Leave to File <i>BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS MOTION TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGENCY ACTION</i> filed by State of California. (Attachments: # 1 [PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS MOTION TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGENCY ACTION)(Basbaum, Jesse) (Filed on 3/7/2025) (Entered: 03/07/2025)
03/07/2025	63	MOTION for leave to appear in Pro Hac Vice (Filing fee \$ 328, receipt number ACANDC-20428301.) filed by State of California. (Welton, Cleland) (Filed on 3/7/2025) (Entered: 03/07/2025)
03/07/2025	64	Declaration of Mariela Gonzalez in Support of 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action (<i>CORRECTION OF DOCKET # 28</i>) filed by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Related document(s) 16) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/7/2025) (Entered: 03/07/2025)
03/07/2025	65	Order by Judge Edward M Chen GRANTING 62 MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGENCY ACTION.(vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/7/2025) (Entered: 03/07/2025)

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03/07/2025	66	Order by Judge Edward M Chen GRANTING 63 Motion for Pro Hac Vice as to Cleland Welton II.(vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/7/2025) (Entered: 03/07/2025)
03/07/2025	67	REPLY (re 16 MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action) filed by National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Attachments: # 1 Appendix A) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/7/2025) (Entered: 03/07/2025)
03/10/2025	68	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Jeffrey Michael Hartman on behalf of United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem (Hartman, Jeffrey) (Filed on 3/10/2025) (Entered: 03/10/2025)
03/11/2025	69	Clerk's Notice CONSENTING TO Video Recording re: 58 Clerk's Notice of Video Recording Request. (Related documents(s) 58)(vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/11/2025) (Entered: 03/11/2025)
03/12/2025	70	Order by Judge Edward M Chen GRANTING 13 ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION OF PLAINTIFFS M.H. AND E.R. TO PROCEED UNDER PSEUDONYM.(vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/12/2025) (Entered: 03/12/2025)
03/18/2025	71	MOTION for Leave to File <i>BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE CITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS MOTION TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGENCY ACTION</i> filed by City of San Diego. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit [PROPOSED] BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE CITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS MOTION TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGENCY ACTION, # 2 Proposed Order [PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AMICI CURIAE BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS MOTION TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGENCY ACTION)(Ankcorn, Mark) (Filed on 3/18/2025) (Entered: 03/18/2025)
03/19/2025	72	Order by Judge Edward M Chen GRANTING 71 MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AMICI CURIAE BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGENCY ACTION.(vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/19/2025) (Entered: 03/19/2025)
03/20/2025	73	MOTION for leave to appear in Pro Hac Vice <i>by Erik Crew</i> (Filing fee \$ 328, receipt number ACANDC-20479409.) filed by VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., National TPS Alliance, Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Attachments: # 1 Certificate of Good Standing)(Crew, Erik) (Filed on 3/20/2025) (Entered: 03/20/2025)
03/20/2025	74	AMENDED COMPLAINT (<i>First amended complaint</i> against All Defendants. Filed by E.R., Mariela Gonzalez, A.C.A., National TPS Alliance, Alba Purica Hernandez, Sherika Blanc, Freddy Arape Rivas, VILES DORSAINVIL, Hendrina Vivas Castillo, M.H., G.S., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/20/2025) (Entered: 03/20/2025)
03/20/2025	75	Unopposed ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION of Plaintiffs A.C.A. and G.S. to Proceed Under Pseudonym filed by A.C.A., G.S.. Responses due by 3/24/2025. (Attachments: # 1 Proposed Order)(MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/20/2025) Modified on 3/21/2025 (mbc, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 03/20/2025)
03/20/2025	76	Declaration of Emilou MacLean in Support of 75 ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION To Proceed Under Pseudonym filed by A.C.A., G.S.. (Related document(s) 75) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/20/2025) (Entered: 03/20/2025)

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03/20/2025	77	Declaration of A.C.A. in Support of 75 ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION To Proceed Under Pseudonym filed by A.C.A.. (Related document(s) 75) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/20/2025) (Entered: 03/20/2025)
03/20/2025	78	Declaration of G.S. in Support of 75 ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION To Proceed Under Pseudonym filed by G.S.. (Related document(s) 75) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/20/2025) (Entered: 03/20/2025)
03/20/2025	79	MOTION to Shorten Time to Confer Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) filed by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Attachments: # 1 Proposed Order)(Arulanantham, Ahilan) (Filed on 3/20/2025) (Entered: 03/20/2025)
03/20/2025	80	Declaration of Ahilan T. Arulanantham in Support of 79 MOTION to Shorten Time to Confer Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) filed by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit 1)(Related document(s) 79) (Arulanantham, Ahilan) (Filed on 3/20/2025) (Entered: 03/20/2025)
03/21/2025	81	ORDER. Defendants shall file a response to 79 Plaintiffs' motion to shorten time by today, 3/21/2025. The parties shall be prepared to discuss issues raised in the motion to shorten time at the 3/24/2025 hearing on 16 Plaintiffs' motion to postpone. Signed by Judge Edward M. Chen on 3/21/2025. (This is a text-only entry generated by the court. There is no document associated with this entry.) (emclc2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/21/2025) (Entered: 03/21/2025)
03/21/2025	82	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Amanda Young on behalf of National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo (Young, Amanda) (Filed on 3/21/2025) (Entered: 03/21/2025)
03/21/2025		<p>For the Monday, March 24, 2025 9:00 AM (PST) hearing, primary seating in Courtroom 5 is first-come, first-serve. There will be overflow seating with audio and video in Courtroom 6, also on the 17th Floor. The public may also listen in to the proceedings by Zoom.</p> <p>Webinar Access: Members of the public and media may access the webinar information at https://www.cand.uscourts.gov/emc</p> <p>General Order 58. Persons granted access to court proceedings held by telephone or videoconference are reminded that photographing, recording, and rebroadcasting of court proceedings, including screenshots or other visual copying of a hearing, is absolutely prohibited.</p> <p>Zoom Guidance and Setup: https://www.cand.uscourts.gov/zoom/.</p> <p>(tmi, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/21/2025) Modified on 3/21/2025 (tmi, COURT STAFF). Modified on 3/21/2025 (tmi, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 03/21/2025)</p>
03/21/2025	83	OPPOSITION/RESPONSE (re 79 MOTION to Shorten Time to Confer Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)) filed by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem. (Vuong, Sarah) (Filed on 3/21/2025) (Entered: 03/21/2025)
03/21/2025	90	Order by Judge Edward M Chen GRANTING 73 Motion for Pro Hac Vice as to Erik Matthew Crew. (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/21/2025) (Entered: 03/21/2025)

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		03/25/2025)
03/24/2025	<u>84</u>	Order by Judge Edward M Chen GRANTING <u>75</u> ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION OF PLAINTIFFS A.C.A AND G.S. TO PROCEED UNDER PSEUDONYM. (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/24/2025) (Entered: 03/24/2025)
03/24/2025	<u>85</u>	***PLEASE DISREGARD, FILED IN ERROR.*** TRANSCRIPT ORDER for proceedings held on 03/24/2025 before Judge Edward M Chen by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem, for Recorded Proceeding - San Francisco. (Vuong, Sarah) (Filed on 3/24/2025) Modified on 3/24/2025 (knm, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 03/24/2025)
03/24/2025	<u>86</u>	***PLEASE DISREGARD, FILED IN ERROR.*** TRANSCRIPT ORDER for proceedings held on 03/24/2025 before Judge Edward M Chen by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo, for Recorded Proceeding - San Francisco. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/24/2025) Modified on 3/24/2025 (knm, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 03/24/2025)
03/24/2025	<u>87</u>	TRANSCRIPT ORDER for proceedings held on 03/24/2025 before Judge Edward M Chen by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem, for Court Reporter April Brott. (Vuong, Sarah) (Filed on 3/24/2025) (Entered: 03/24/2025)
03/24/2025	<u>88</u>	TRANSCRIPT ORDER for proceedings held on 03/24/2025 before Judge Edward M Chen by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo, for Court Reporter April Brott. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/24/2025) (Entered: 03/24/2025)
03/24/2025	<u>89</u>	Certificate of Interested Entities by VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 3/24/2025) (Entered: 03/24/2025)
03/24/2025	<u>114</u>	Minute Entry for proceedings held before Judge Edward M Chen: Motion Hearing held on 3/24/2025 re <u>16</u> MOTION Postpone Effective Date of Agency Action. Total Time in Court: 2 Hours, 59 minutes. Court Reporter: April Brott. (vla, COURT STAFF) (Date Filed: 3/24/2025) (Entered: 04/21/2025)
03/26/2025	<u>91</u>	Transcript of Proceedings held on March 24, 2025, before Judge Edward M. Chen. Court Reporter/Transcriber April Wood Brott, telephone number 510-225-8350 april_brott@cand.uscourts.gov. Per General Order No. 59 and Judicial Conference policy, this transcript may be viewed only at the Clerk's Office public terminal or may be purchased through the Court Reporter/Transcriber until the deadline for the Release of Transcript Restriction. After that date it may be obtained through PACER. Any Notice of Intent to Request Redaction, if required, is due no later than 5 business days from date of this filing. (Re <u>87</u> Transcript Order, <u>88</u> Transcript Order,) Release of Transcript Restriction set for 6/24/2025. (Related documents(s) <u>87</u> , <u>88</u>) (Brott, April) (Filed on 3/26/2025) (Entered: 03/26/2025)
03/28/2025	<u>92</u>	NOTICE of Appearance filed by Amanda Saylor on behalf of United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem (Saylor, Amanda) (Filed on 3/28/2025) (Entered: 03/28/2025)
03/31/2025	<u>93</u>	ORDER by Judge Edward M. Chen granting <u>16</u> Plaintiffs' Motion to Postpone. (emclc2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/31/2025) (Entered: 03/31/2025)

04/01/2025	94	NOTICE OF APPEAL to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals filed by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem. (Appeal fee FEE WAIVED.) (Hartman, Jeffrey) (Filed on 4/1/2025) (Entered: 04/01/2025)
04/01/2025	95	MOTION stay pending appeal to the Ninth Circuit filed by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem. Responses due by 4/15/2025. Replies due by 4/22/2025. (Hartman, Jeffrey) (Filed on 4/1/2025) (Entered: 04/01/2025)
04/01/2025	96	MOTION to Shorten Time <i>to no later than April 4, 2025</i> filed by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem. (Hartman, Jeffrey) (Filed on 4/1/2025) (Entered: 04/01/2025)
04/01/2025	97	ORDER. Plaintiffs shall file a response to 95 the government's motion to stay pending appeal by 4/2/2025. Signed by Judge Edward M. Chen on 4/1/2025. (This is a text-only entry generated by the court. There is no document associated with this entry.) (emclc2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/1/2025) (Entered: 04/01/2025)
04/02/2025	98	MOTION for Extension of Time to File Response/Reply as to 95 MOTION stay pending appeal to the Ninth Circuit , 96 MOTION to Shorten Time <i>to no later than April 4, 2025</i> , 97 Order, (<i>Plaintiffs' Emergency Request to Extend Briefing Schedule for Defendants' Motion to Stay</i>) filed by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (Attachments: # 1 Declaration of Ahilan Arulanantham, # 2 Exhibit 1, # 3 Exhibit 2, # 4 Exhibit 3)(Arulanantham, Ahilan) (Filed on 4/2/2025) (Entered: 04/02/2025)
04/02/2025	99	ORDER by Judge Edward M. Chen denying 98 Plaintiffs' Motion for Extension of Time to File Response/Reply. However, the Court shall give Plaintiffs until 9:00 a.m. on 4/3/2025 to file their response to Defendants' motion to stay. (This is a text-only entry generated by the court. There is no document associated with this entry.) (emclc2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/2/2025) (Entered: 04/02/2025)
04/02/2025	100	USCA Preliminary Injunction Time Schedule Notice. Docket Number 25-2120. (mbc, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/2/2025) (Entered: 04/02/2025)
04/03/2025	101	OPPOSITION/RESPONSE (re 95 MOTION stay pending appeal to the Ninth Circuit) filed by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/3/2025) (Entered: 04/03/2025)
04/04/2025	102	ORDER by Judge Edward M. Chen denying 95 Defendants' Motion to Stay; granting 96 Defendants' Motion to Shorten Time. (emclc2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/4/2025) (Entered: 04/04/2025)
04/04/2025	108	CIRCUIT RULE 27-3 CERTIFICATE of USCA as to 94 Notice of Appeal to the Ninth Circuit filed by Kristi Noem, United States of America, United States Department of Homeland Security (ark, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/4/2025) (Entered: 04/08/2025)
04/07/2025	103	NOTICE by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem <i>Filing of Administrative Record for Venezuela Vacatur</i> (Attachments: # 1 Part 1, # 2 Part 2, # 3 Part 3, # 4 Part 4, # 5 Part 5)(Vuong, Sarah) (Filed on 4/7/2025) (Entered: 04/07/2025)
04/07/2025	104	NOTICE by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem <i>Filing of Administrative Record for Venezuela Termination</i> (Attachments: # 1 Part 1, # 2 Part 2, # 3 Part 3, # 4 Part 4, # 5 Part 5, # 6 Part 6, # 7 Part 7, # 8 Part 8, # 9 Part 9)(Vuong, Sarah) (Filed on 4/7/2025) (Entered: 04/07/2025)

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04/07/2025	105	STATUS REPORT (<i>Joint</i>) re: 93 by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/7/2025) (Entered: 04/07/2025)
04/07/2025	109	ORDER of USCA as to 94 Notice of Appeal to the Ninth Circuit filed by Kristi Noem, United States of America, United States Department of Homeland Security (ark, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/7/2025) (Entered: 04/08/2025)
04/08/2025	106	ORDER. The Court has reviewed the parties' status report at Docket No. 105 . The Court hereby orders production of the administrative record for Haiti by 4/15/2025. The Court shall also set a date for the initial case management conference forthwith. Signed by Judge Edward M. Chen on 4/8/2025. (This is a text-only entry generated by the court. There is no document associated with this entry.) (emclc2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/8/2025) (Entered: 04/08/2025)
04/08/2025	107	CLERK'S NOTICE RESCHEDULING INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE. Joint Case Management Statement due by 4/16/2025. Initial Case Management Conference reset from 5/20/2025 to 4/21/2025, at 1:30 PM in San Francisco, - Videoconference Only. This proceeding will be held via a Zoom webinar. ALL COUNSEL PARTICIPATING IN THE HEARING ARE REQUIRED TO LOG INTO ZOOM NO LATER THAN 1:20 PM Webinar Access: All counsel, members of the public, and media may access the webinar information at https://www.cand.uscourts.gov/emc General Order 58. Persons granted access to court proceedings held by telephone or videoconference are reminded that photographing, recording, and rebroadcasting of court proceedings, including screenshots or other visual copying of a hearing, is absolutely prohibited. Zoom Guidance and Setup: https://www.cand.uscourts.gov/zoom/. <i>(This is a text-only entry generated by the court. There is no document associated with this entry.)</i> (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/8/2025) (Entered: 04/08/2025)
04/15/2025	110	NOTICE of Submission of Administrative Record Haiti Partial Vacatur by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem re 106 Order, (Attachments: # 1 Certification and Index, # 2 Admin. Record Part 1, # 3 Admin. Record Part 2, # 4 Admin. Record Part 3, # 5 Admin. Record Part 4)(Dichter, Anna) (Filed on 4/15/2025) Modified on 4/15/2025 (mbc, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 04/15/2025)
04/16/2025	111	CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT (<i>Joint</i>) filed by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/16/2025) (Entered: 04/16/2025)
04/16/2025	112	ADR Certification (ADR L.R. 3-5 b) of discussion of ADR options (<i>by plaintiffs</i>) (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/16/2025) (Entered: 04/16/2025)
04/18/2025	113	ORDER of USCA for the Ninth Circuit (mbc, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/18/2025) (Entered: 04/18/2025)

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04/21/2025	<u>127</u>	<p>Minute Entry for proceedings held before Judge Edward M Chen: Initial Case Management Conference held on 4/21/2025.</p> <p>Total Time in Court: 50 Minutes. Court Reporter: Kendra Steppler. (vla, COURT STAFF) (Date Filed: 4/21/2025) (Entered: 04/30/2025)</p>
04/25/2025	<u>115</u>	<p>MOTION to Stay <i>Deadlines and Further Proceedings With Respect to Venezuela TPS Determinations</i> filed by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem. Responses due by 5/9/2025. Replies due by 5/16/2025. (Hartman, Jeffrey) (Filed on 4/25/2025) (Entered: 04/25/2025)</p>
04/25/2025	<u>116</u>	<p>***PLEASE DISREGARD, FILED IN ERROR***</p> <p>TRANSCRIPT ORDER for proceedings held on 04/21/2025 before Judge Edward M Chen by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo, for Recorded Proceeding - San Francisco. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/25/2025) Modified on 4/29/2025 (knm, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 04/25/2025)</p>
04/28/2025	117	<p>CLERK'S NOTICE SCHEDULING MOTION HEARING.</p> <p>Motion Hearing as to <u>115</u> MOTION to Stay <i>Deadlines and Further Proceedings With Respect to Venezuela TPS Determinations</i> set for 5/29/2025, at 1:30 PM in San Francisco, Courtroom 05, 17th Floor before Judge Edward M Chen.</p> <p>ALL COUNSEL PARTICIPATING IN THE HEARING ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE IN COURTROOM 5, 17TH FLOOR NO LATER THAN 1:10 PM TO CHECK-IN WITH THE COURTROOM DEPUTY.</p> <p><i>(This is a text-only entry generated by the court. There is no document associated with this entry.)</i>,(vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/28/2025) (Entered: 04/28/2025)</p>
04/29/2025	<u>118</u>	<p>TRANSCRIPT ORDER for proceedings held on 04/21/2025 before Judge Edward M Chen by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo, for Court Reporter Kendra Steppler. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/29/2025) (Entered: 04/29/2025)</p>
04/29/2025	<u>119</u>	<p>STIPULATION WITH PROPOSED ORDER <i>REGARDING CROSS-MOTION BRIEFING SCHEDULING</i> filed by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/29/2025) (Entered: 04/29/2025)</p>
04/29/2025	<u>120</u>	<p>STIPULATION <i>REGARDING DISCOVERY OF ELECTRONICALLY STORED INFORMATION</i> filed by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/29/2025) (Entered: 04/29/2025)</p>
04/29/2025	<u>121</u>	<p>STIPULATION <i>RE: CLAWBACK AGREEMENT AND FEDERAL RULE OF EVIDENCE 502(d) ORDER</i> filed by National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo. (MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/29/2025) (Entered: 04/29/2025)</p>

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04/29/2025	122	MOTION to Dismiss <i>Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint</i> filed by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, Kristi Noem. Motion to Dismiss Hearing set for 6/12/2025 01:30 PM in San Francisco, Courtroom 05, 17th Floor. Responses due by 5/13/2025. Replies due by 5/20/2025. (Bryant, Lauren) (Filed on 4/29/2025) (Entered: 04/29/2025)
04/30/2025	123	Joint Discovery Letter Brief filed by United States Department of Homeland Security, United States of America, National TPS Alliance, VILES DORSAINVIL, A.C.A., Sherika Blanc, G.S., Mariela Gonzalez, Freddy Arape Rivas, M.H., Cecilia Gonzalez Herrera, Alba Purica Hernandez, E.R., Hendrina Vivas Castillo, Kristi Noem. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit A)(MacLean, Emilou) (Filed on 4/30/2025) (Entered: 04/30/2025)
04/30/2025	124	Order by Judge Edward M Chen GRANTING 119 STIPULATION REGARDING CROSS-MOTION BRIEFING SCHEDULE. (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/30/2025) (Entered: 04/30/2025)
04/30/2025	125	ORDER GRANTING 120 STIPULATION REGARDING DISCOVERY OF ELECTRONICALLY STORED INFORMATION. Signed by Judge Edward M. Chen on 4/30/2025. (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/30/2025) (Entered: 04/30/2025)
04/30/2025	126	ORDER GRANTING 121 STIPULATED CLAWBACK AGREEMENT. Signed by Judge Edward M. Chen on 4/30/2025. (vla, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/30/2025) (Entered: 04/30/2025)

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